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FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2020

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Don Campbell / HP staff

Health care workers wave to dozens of police and fire vehicles as area first responders make a stop at Lakeland Medical Center in St. Joseph Thursday night to express their gratitude.

Big smiles behind the masks

Police, fire, ambulance crews parade past Lakeland to thank health care heroes

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — Dozens of police, fire and ambulance personnel took time out Thursday evening to recognize and thank another bunch of heroes.

"We wanted to show our appreciation for these workers on the front lines. In our eyes, they are the heroes during this challenging time," said Lincoln Township Fire Chief Brandon Chiarello.

He and Lincoln Township Police Patrolman Curt Wolf invited members of all police, fire and public safety departments in Berrien County, along with ambulance crews, to take part in a drive-by appreciation event to honor Spectrum Health Lakeland workers.

"The hospital knows we're coming, so hopefully workers will get to look out the windows as we drive through," Chiarello said, before the event.

A steady stream of police cars, fire trucks and ambulances, with red and blue lights flashing, made its way along the winding driveway at the main entrance to Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Lakeland employees waved and yelled "thank you," many outside the door wearing masks and many waving from hospital windows.

"I'm just so impressed. This is so cool," said Debra Johnson, assistant vice president and chief

See **PARADE**, page A2

A way to thank heroes

By HP STAFF

BENTON TOWNSHIP — As most people shelter in place to protect themselves and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic, essential workers in health care, public safety, child care, food service and other industries continue to provide vital services.

Because many of these heroes are Lake Michigan College students and alumni, LMC has launched a "Heathcare Heroes" campaign, with a virtual thank you card and a video urging people to stay home so workers can continue to care for the sick.

More than 200 people have signed the card with notes of thanks and words of encouragement, the college said in a news release.

"We've been training nurses and other professionals in our community for almost 75 years. Our faculty and staff keep in touch with thousands of graduates who we know are out there every day putting their education and skills to good use," said LMC President Trevor Kubatzke. "We wanted to let them know we're thinking of them. We're still supporting them."

To watch the "Healthcare Heroes" video and sign the virtual card, visit www.lakemichigancollege.edu/community/thankyou.

GOP wants to cut Whitmer's emergency powers

Legislature poised to OK bills, but governor promises veto

By BETH LEBLANC
The Detroit News

The Michigan GOP-led House and Senate will hold a special session today with the intent of forming an oversight committee to assess Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's handling to the coronavirus pandemic in Michigan.

The Senate also plans to take action on bills that would limit the governor's emergency authority, said Amber Cann, spokeswoman for Senate Majority Leader Mike Shirkey, R-Clarklake.

Lawmakers last week introduced bills in the House and Senate that would curb two laws under which Whitmer has been issuing executive orders during the pandemic. Whitmer has signaled she would veto the legislation.

The House plans to pass a resolution to form a bicameral, bipartisan committee consisting of five House members and five senators. Session will begin at 10 a.m.

"Michigan needs to handle this pandemic seriously yet properly. It's what the people deserve, and we will see that it happens," House Speaker Lee Chatfield, R-Levering, tweeted Thursday.

The Senate also "plans to pass the resolution," McCann said.

The committee is similar to what was put in place to examine Republican former Gov. Rick Snyder's actions during the Flint water crisis, said Gideon D'Assandro, a Chatfield spokesman.

Precautions similar to the Legislature's April 7 session – such as symptom and temperature screenings – will be taken today, D'Assandro said.

But the House will make a few changes to the "overly cautious" spacing of House members as attendance is recorded, D'Assandro said. The process took more than two hours on April 7 as lawmakers entered the room one by one.

Unlike the Senate, the House does not plan to take up any additional legislation.

The legislation that will be considered by the Senate today would shorten the window under which a governor could declare a state of emergency under the Emergency Management Act from 28 days to 14 and allow police to issue a civil fine for violation of an executive order instead of a misdemeanor penalty.

The penalty for a misdemeanor is a $500 fine and/or 90 days in jail but the legislation would limit a civil infraction fine to $250.

Bills introduced by Republican Sen. Tom Barrett of Charlotte would repeal a separate governor's emergency powers act from 1945 that Whitmer has cited in her emergency declarations and is relying on to do a planned short-term extension of her stay home order that is scheduled to expire April 30.

Two other bills from Barrett would amend the 1945 law and the Emergency Management Act to prohibit the governor from banning during an emergency "the sale or purchase of firearms, ammunition, or other weapons."

Republicans on Wednesday criticized the governor and demanded more details on a cancelled contract with two Democratic firms to help with outreach and data management associated with the state's coronavirus contact tracing project.

One of the original contracted companies is run by a Democratic consultant who said a month ago on Facebook that he hoped President Donald Trump would get "coronavirus ASAP."

Whitmer wouldn't say Wednesday who within the state health department approved the contract. Similarly, her Department of Health and Human Services has yet to say who approved the contract.

Berrien lobbies Whitmer for more flexibility

Letter argues for a more regional approach in executive orders

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — Regional flexibility is needed as the state fights to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus, Berrien County commissioners said Thursday in a letter that sent to Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

"Executive action should not be based on the notion that one rule fits all locations," states the letter, which was read by board Chairman Mac Elliott during the virtual meeting. "What is necessary for Southeast Michigan is not proving to be what is best for Southwest Michigan, the Upper Peninsula and other regions."

Over 80 percent of the COVID-19 cases have been reported to be on the east side of the state.

Elliott said the letter will be sent to the governor electronically because she is expected to soon make an announcement regarding the expansion of the stay-at-home executive order beyond April 30.

"What we're doing today is certainly timely in light of what's been happening in the governor's office," he said.

In the letter, commissioners ask Whitmer to revise current and future executive orders to allow for regional flexibility.

"We also urge you to allow citizens to purchase such things as grass seed, house paint and gardening supplies and to engage in recreational and outdoor activities which common sense should allow," Elliott said. "Those of us in border counties can readily understand why citizens are flocking to Lowe's, Meijer, Walmart or Home Depot stores in Toledo, South Bend or Elkhart. They are driving across the state line because it is unreasonable to prohibit the purchase of these items in approximately 75 of the 83 Michigan counties."

The letter further states that:

- the virus is more impactful on areas with high population density,
- continuing to treat the entire state the same will likely cause "irreparable damage to our economies and to the entire state,"
- a sensible and safe framework needs to be set up that "respects the constitutional guarantees of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all citizens in the state,"
- modifications to current and future executive orders need to follow federal guidelines,
- local public health officials can be trusted to reopen the county safely, and
- people who work in occupations where they can socially distance themselves should be allowed to return to work.

Elliott said he expects the commissioners to meet April

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The Newspaper for Southwest Michigan

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Tomorrow's Weather

High 46 Low 40

6 50645 49085 0

As some closures lift, studies suggest infections occurred earlier

By JAWEED KALEEM
Los Angeles Times (TNS)

As some states and cities lift stay-at-home orders and many seek to ramp up coronavirus testing, new evidence is emerging that infections spread farther, faster and earlier than initially thought.

In New York, the U.S. epicenter for the virus and deaths from the disease it causes, COVID-19, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced on Thursday that one of the largest efforts in the country to test for antibodies found that just over 1 out of 5 New York City residents – 21.2 percent – may have had the virus and recovered. The vast majority had shown no symptoms, a feature that has contributed to the virus's spread.

Another study released by researchers at Northeastern University in Boston concluded that as early as March 1, the day New York City confirmed its first case, 28,000 people had been infected in five major cities – New York, Boston, Seattle, Chicago and San Francisco. That estimate is 1,000 times the official tallies at the time, which showed only 28 infections in the United States.

Coupled with new findings this week in Santa Clara County, where the medical examiner confirmed that California had the earliest deaths from COVID-19 – on Feb. 6 and Feb. 17 – the new information suggests a national epidemic was underway far earlier than stay-at-home orders were put in place and testing was available. Prior to the Santa Clara results, a man in Washington state, whose death was confirmed Feb. 29, was thought to be the country's first casualty.

For the New York data, the state randomly tested 3,000 residents at grocery stores and other businesses in 19 counties and 40 cities. The largest share of positive results for infection were in New York City, where 1,300 people were tested. Outside the state's biggest metropolitan area, the positive rate was 3.6 percent. Cuomo said those infected likely contracted the virus under two months ago, since mid-February.

The study results, which would indicate 2.7 million infections in the state, still must be further analyzed, the governor cautioned. He said that the numbers were "skewed" because those tested at the various sites may have tended to be people who were taking fewer social distancing precautions than the general population and thus more likely to have been exposed to the virus.

While the study indicated a far greater spread of the virus, it also would mean that the state's death rate is lower than estimated. More than 15,000 New Yorkers have died from COVID-19.

Cuomo said the state's total coronavirus hospitalizations had continued to go down, but that hospitals' admissions of new patients remained flat at around 1,300 a day. That is "not great news," he said. And the number of deaths – 438 people on Wednesday – "is not coming down as fast as we would like it to come down," Cuomo said.

Overall in the U.S., the death toll exceeded 47,000 on Thursday. The number has jumped by more than a thousand daily in recent weeks. At the beginning of the month, total deaths were at 4,780.

Michigan food banks running low; State calls for donations

LANSING (AP) — Businesses around Michigan are being urged to donate food to the Food Bank Council of Michigan and other nonprofits to help restock food pantries struggling to meet demand during the coronavirus pandemic.

With more workers being laid off or furloughed because of the virus crisis, food banks are operating at four times their normal capacity. Meanwhile, the council, which supports more than 3,000 local food banks, soup kitchens and pantries throughout the state, likely won't receive food through a federal program until July.

"Food donations are desperately needed to meet historically high demand at a time when food supplies are dangerously low, and collectively, we can make a huge difference," Gary McDowell, director for the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, told The Detroit News.

The department has partnered with the Governor's office and the council to boost the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Initiative, allowing the state to accept supplies, money, or food donations.

So far, food and agriculture businesses like McDonald's of Michigan and Peterson Farms Inc., of Shelby, have made large donations to the program.

Other companies have also donated to food banks, including the United Dairy Industry of Michigan, which contributed $200,000 in matching grants.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said donations from Michigan food and agriculture businesses will make a huge difference to families affected by COVID-19.

LOTTERIES

Thursday drawings

Michigan
Poker Lotto
AC-AH-4C-3D-7H
Midday Daily 3
3-2-2
Midday Daily 4
0-4-3-4
Daily 3
2-6-7
Daily 4
7-9-4-1
Fantasy 5
05-07-12-15-22
Keno
01-02-03-06-10-11-16-21-23-26-34-35-36-38-41-49-55-60-61-68-69-77
Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: $174 million
Powerball
Estimated jackpot: $37 million

Wednesday drawings

Michigan
Powerball
01-33-35-40-69, Powerball: 24, Power Play: 5
Indiana
Cash 5
09-15-25-31-35
Cash4Life
02-06-10-37-42, Cash Ball: 1
Lotto Plus
04-18-26-29-41-42
Quick Draw Midday
02-03-13-17-18-21-23-29-30-33-39-40-42-45-56-60-64-65-68-70, BE: 29
Daily Three-Midday
2-0-3, SB: 2
Daily Three-Evening
1-3-2, SB: 6
Daily Four-Midday
3-6-3-8, SB: 2
Daily Four-Evening
2-1-3-3, SB: 6
Quick Draw Evening
05-06-07-10-12-15-20-22-24-31-35-37-40-49-52-63-68-70-76-80, BE: 10
Hoosier Lotto
05-19-21-23-32-36
Illinois
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
08-13-19-21-23
Pick Three-Midday
3-9-1, Fireball: 8
Pick Three-Evening
4-3-8, Fireball: 2
Pick Four-Midday
9-0-4-5, Fireball: 1
Pick Four-Evening
9-0-0-9, Fireball: 3
Lucky Day Lotto
21-22-28-30-45

– The Associated Press

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Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

Dozens of area police and fire vehicles stop at Lakeland Medical Center in St. Joseph Thursday night.

Health care workers wave from an upper window at Lakeland Medical Center as dozens police and fire vehicles parade in tribute.

Supporters gather with signs at Lakeland Medical Center in St. Joseph to honor health care workers.

PARADE

From page A1

experience officer at Lakeland. "I can't even say how I feel about this. It's just so special. Because of our masks people can't see our smiles. We hope they can see the twinkle in our eyes."

Many off-duty health care workers, as well as nearby residents, lined the driveway to watch the parade.

Because Lincoln Township is centrally located in Berrien County, many police and fire department vehicles staged there at 7 p.m. At about 7:15, the vehicles left Lincoln Township and more departments joined at a second staging area in the Buffalo Wild Wings parking lot in St. Joseph.

The parade of vehicles, with lights flashing, entered the parking lot at Lakeland from Langley Avenue, and, after pausing briefly for police and firefighters to salute the health care workers, exited the hospital parking lot onto Napier Avenue before dispersing.

"We all know the medical workers are on the front lines every day. We're all in this together," said Jack Fisher, executive director of Medic 1, before taking part in the event.

He said the ambulance service has protocol in place for workers and, "We've had nobody in our office test positive. That's a testimony to our people who are following protocol and practicing due diligence."

St. Joseph Township Police Chief Randy Leng said his department and the township's fire department thought it was important to show their support for those in the medical field who are dealing with the COVID-19 virus head-on.

"It takes a lot of courage dealing with COVID-19 patients on a daily basis, then heading home to their families. We truly support their incredible effort and would not have missed this event," Leng said.

Bridgman Police Chief Daniel Unruh said he wanted to take part in the event to honor those working and caring for not only the COVID-19 patients, but also people who are hospitalized for other reasons.

"It's the least we first-responders can do to show our appreciation for all health care workers who have spent countless hours away from their own homes, families and friends to care for others. A simple 'thank you' seems like such a small token of appreciation for the jobs they're doing, so when I heard about this drive-by, I didn't hesitate to join in. I have a lot of friends working at the hospital and can't thank them and the entire staff enough," Unruh said.

St. Joseph Department of Public Safety Director Steve Neubecker said it was important for his department to show their support for health care workers who are on the front lines, treating people who have COVID-19 or symptoms.

"We want to thank all Spectrum Health Lakeland staff members for working tirelessly to keep our communities safe," Neubecker said. It's important that we're here showing our support for our health care workers. We wanted to express our thanks for all they do. They are not getting breaks and are working long hours to keep this community safe."

Coloma Township Police Chief Wes Smigielski said everyone at the hospital who has committed to work deserves to see how much the community appreciates what they are doing.

"This is a new thing for all of us, and everyone who has to work front lines, from grocers, fast-food and public safety has stepped up and done what they can to make life seem a little bit normal," he said. "We are thankful to everyone."

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★ PTSD Counselors from the South Bend Vet Center that comes to Berrien County twice a week.

★ Non-Service Connected Veterans Pension and Survivors Pension benefits (House Bound as well as Aid and Attendance) for low income veterans over age 65 or prior to age 65 that are disabled and have at least one day of wartime service (additional means tested restrictions apply).

★ Free transportation at designated stops for veterans enrolled in the VA Health Benefits Program to the VA Medical Center in Battle Creek and the VA Health Care Center in Mishawaka.

★ Financial assistance thru the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund for wartime veterans or peacetime veterans who earned an expeditionary medal (additional means tested restrictions apply).

★ Free financial coaching from an Accredited Financial Counselor and Financial Fitness Coach Counselor as well as ongoing Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Military Edition classes.

★ Please read our weekly "The Veterans Voice" article in MailMax Newspaper to learn more about additional benefits for veterans and dependents. Let us be of service to you for your service.

hp LOCAL & STATE

BERRIEN COUNTY

Berrien braces for expected drop in revenue

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — An expected drop in revenue sharing from the state due to the COVID-19 pandemic has Berrien County commissioners taking a second look at spending.

Commissioner Ezra Scott said Thursday that he spoke earlier in the week with a representative from state Sen. Kim LaSata's office, who told him that the state is looking at a $6 billion shortfall because of the pandemic and resulting stay-at-home order.

"He explained to me that they're working on the 2020-21 budget right now, and the state has $1 billion in, basically, their rainy day fund," Scott told commissioners during their virtual meeting.

Scott said that if the $1 billion is used, the state will still have a $5 billion shortfall that they have to make up.

"He explained to me that if the state opens up from this lockdown of the coronavirus the end of April, the counties will see an 8 percent cut in the revenue sharing," he said. "If the governor does extend this and it would end, let's say, in the end of May, he said that the counties will see a 13 percent cut in revenue sharing."

Scott said it was further explained to him that the $6 billion shortfall doesn't take into account the expected loss in revenues from gasoline taxes, due to people staying home.

When contacted by phone after the meeting, LaSata said the state doesn't know how much revenue will be lost due to the virus and resulting economic damage. She said a rep from her office did speak with Scott, but not about specific figures.

During the meeting, Scott said he's also worried about the loss of revenue from area casinos.

"This is a real problem and I just want all the commissioners to know (that) we really need to start thinking into the immediate future of how we spend our money and how we do our budgeting and everything else," Scott said.

Commissioner Mamie Yarbrough said that at least some of the state's loss in revenue may be made up by the federal government.

She said she attended a meeting with the Kinexus Group, where one of the speakers was former state Rep. Al Pscholka – now the vice president of public relations and government affairs with the group.

"He says there's a lot of federal dollars and they're coming, coming here because it's an election year," she said. "So in the next two to four weeks, there should be some more dollars coming to the state of Michigan."

In other business, commissioners took off the requisition report the approval to pay Wightman $421,300 for construction services for the Red Arrow Highway and Union Pier intersection.

Commissioners want another week to get more information about why the contract went to Wightman, an engineering company in Benton Township, even though the company's bid was $80,000 more than the bid from Abonmarche, an engineering company in Benton Harbor.

"We don't want to hold it up. We just want to understand it better," said Commissioner Mamie Yarbrough.

Commissioners also approved accepting $193,950 from the Michigan Department of Transportation for Berrien Bus, the county's transportation program.

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BERRIEN COUNTY

Several commission seats up for grabs in August

Races set for treasurer, register of deeds

By HP STAFF

There will be a handful of primary races in Berrien County this August, with a couple of countywide races.

Among the contested races for the primary include county treasurer, the register of deeds and the county commissioner seats in Districts 4, 5 and 6.

Shelly Weich, who was appointed this week as treasurer after former Treasurer Bret Witkowski resigned, will face Adrian Rolling for a four-year term as county treasurer.

Lora Freehling, who was named register of deeds after the tragic death of Lori Jarvis in 2018, will face Brandon Vance for a four-year term as register of deeds.

Sharon Henderson is challenging Commissioner Mamie Yarbrough to represent District 4.

One Democrat and two Republicans are vying for an open seat in District 5, as Commissioner Bill Chickering is not running for re-election.

Also, Commissioner Christopher Heugel will face candidate Julie Wuerfel in District 6.

Below is a breakdown of all candidates – listed in alphabetical order – running for county seats:

County Prosecutor (Four-year term)

■ Steven Pierangeli, R-St. Joseph

County Sheriff (Four-year term)

■ Paul Bailey, R-Berrien Center (incumbent)

County Clerk (Four-year term)

■ Gwenetta Swanigan, D-St. Joseph
■ Sharon Tyler, R-Niles (incumbent)

County Treasurer (Four-year term)

■ Adrian Rolling, R-Benton Harbor
■ Shelly Weich, R-Baroda

Register of Deeds (Four-year term)

■ Lora Freehling, R-Stevensville
■ Brandon Vance, R-Buchanan

Drain Commissioner (Four-year term)

■ Christopher Quattrin, R-St. Joseph (incumbent)

County Surveyor (Four-year term)

■ John Kamer, R-Eau Claire (incumbent)

County Commissioner District 1 (Two-year term)

■ Kevin Holmes, D-Coloma
■ David Vollrath, R-Coloma (incumbent)

County Commissioner District 2 (Two-year term)

■ Jon Hinkelman, R-Watervliet (incumbent)

County Commissioner District 3 (Two-year term)

■ Donnie Meeks, D-Benton Harbor (incumbent)

County Commissioner District 4 (Two-year term)

■ Sharon Henderson, D-Benton Harbor
■ Mamie Yarbrough, D-Benton Harbor (incumbent)

County Commissioner District 5 (Two-year term)

■ Rayonte Bell, D-Benton Harbor
■ Bruce Gorenflo, R-St. Joseph
■ David Yardley, R-St. Joseph

County Commissioner District 6 (Two-year term)

■ Christopher Heugel, R-St. Joseph (incumbent)
■ Julie Wuerfel, R-St. Joseph

County Commissioner District 7 (Two-year term)

■ Robert Harrison, R-Stevensville (incumbent)

County Commissioner District 8 (Two-year term)

■ Teri Freehling, R-Baroda (incumbent)

County Commissioner District 9 (Two-year term)

■ Richard Eichholz, D-Union Pier
■ Ezra Scott, R-New Buffalo (incumbent)

County Commissioner District 10 (Two-year term)

■ Richard Elliott, R-Buchanan (incumbent)

County Commissioner District 11 (Two-year term)

■ James Curran, R-Niles (incumbent)

County Commissioner District 12 (Two-year term)

■ Michael Majerek, R-Niles (incumbent)
■ Michael Poorman, D-Niles

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HEARTFELT THANKS

Tony Bertuca, owner of Hub Central 185, and his son, Austin Bertuca, add names to a heart sign framing the entrance to their restaurant, Tuesday in downtown Coloma. Bertuca is encouraging people to contact him with names of nurses, doctors, first-responders, grocery clerks and anyone deserving of thanks. The restaurant is one of many in the region that is only offering delivery and curbside pickup during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Don Campbell / HP staff

Whirlpool closes Iowa plant as precaution to COVID-19

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writer

AMANA, Iowa — Whirlpool Corp. has temporarily closed its Amana, Iowa plant this week after several employees tested positive for COVID-19.

KWWL News was the first outlet to report the plant would temporarily close. This marks the second time in the past four weeks that the plant was closed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Benton Harbor appliance maker initially closed its Amana plant on March 24 after an employee there tested positive for the coronavirus.

The company also temporarily closed a Findlay, Ohio plant on March 26 after it was believed at least one employee had tested positive for coronavirus. Both locations underwent a deep cleaning.

Company officials have stated there will be a cleaning of the Iowa facility conducted during the shutdown. As was the case during the previous closure, there was no timeline given for reopening the plant.

With 77,000 employees around the world – about 4,000 of which are based in Southwest Michigan – Whirlpool has added various workplace policies as the coronavirus continues to spread across the United States.

Starting in January, the company initiated travel bans, remote work policies, line distancing and enhanced cleaning of its facilities.

Whirlpool also announced it asked salaried employees to take two weeks of unpaid leave. The company made the announcement in early April, where employees were instructed to schedule a two-week furlough between April 13 and the end of May.

The decision affected only Whirlpool's U.S.-based salaried employees.

Whirlpool joined several other companies in withdrawing its 2020 earnings guidance last month, citing "unprecedented uncertainty" and concerns over disruptions related to the coronavirus.

The company said in a March 24 statement that it expects demand and production disruptions to act as a drag on its 2020 financial performance.

Whirlpool stated losses from the virus could exceed $25 million to $40 million, before interest and taxes, in the first quarter of 2020. The appliance maker is expected to provide more information on the global impact of COVID-19 at its next earnings call, for May 1.

Contact: twittkowski@TheHP.com, 932-0358, Twitter: @TonyWittkowski

IN BRIEF

Additional COVID-19 death reported in Cass County

The Van Buren Cass District Health Department (VBCDHD) reported another death from COVID-19 in Cass County on Thursday.

Now each county has two deaths.

Cass and Van Buren counties added no new positive cases from Wednesday. They are at 23 and 35 cases, respectively.

The VBCDHD updates its number of recovered patients on Fridays. So far there 8 recovered in both counties.

In Berrien County there are 189 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 and 176 presumed positive cases. That's up from 177 confirmed cases and 171 presumed cases reported Wednesday.

Out of the 189 positive cases, 11 have died and 113 have recovered.

The Berrien County Health Department will hold a press conference via Facebook Live at 12:30 p.m. today. To watch, visit @bchdmi or @spectrumhealthlakeland on Facebook.

The state and county health departments update the number of positive COVID-19 cases at about 3 p.m. each day. For state numbers, visit www.michigan.gov/coronavirus.

Local numbers and information can be found at www.bchdmi.org, and at www.vbcassdhd.org/covid-19.

Grant benefits local Intercare sites

BANGOR — Intercare Community Health Network, which serves people in Van Buren and Berrien counties, is one of 39 health centers in Michigan selected to receive a grant to help slow the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic.

Intercare will use its $1.5 million grant to help detect coronavirus, prevent, diagnose and treat for the virus, and also to maintain or increase health capacity and staffing levels to address the public health emergency.

Intercare is using some of the grant funds for its curbside testing site at its Benton Harbor medical facility.

The grant Intercare has received is part of $32.5 million in emergency funding that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded to health centers in Michigan to help stop the spread of the coronavirus.

The 39 health centers, like Intercare, deliver medical care to low-income individuals and families.

Intercare has medical facilities in Bangor, Benton Harbor, Eau Claire and Pullman in Southwest Michigan.

Blood Drives

American Red Cross

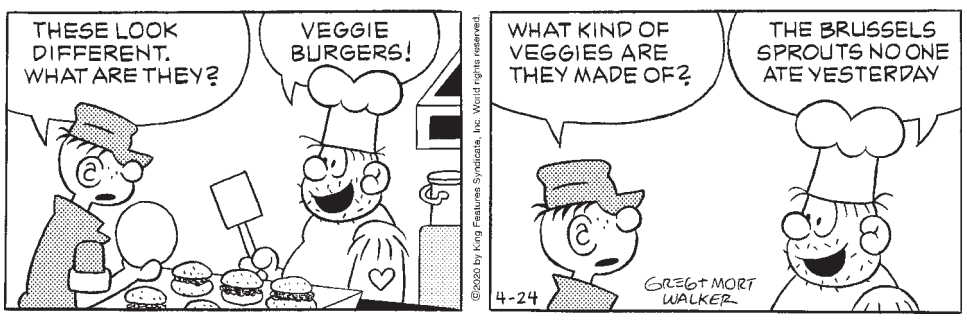
■ Noon-5:45 p.m. today, American Legion, 200 W. Linden St., Three Oaks.
■ Noon-5:45 p.m. Monday, Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, 24832 E. U.S. Highway 12, Edwardsburg.
■ 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. Tuesday, Lawrence High School, 650 W. St. Joseph St., Lawrence.
■ 11:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Decatur High School, 110 Cedar St., Decatur.

Versiti Blood Center

■ 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Versiti Blood Center of Michigan, 2710 Cleveland Ave., St. Joseph.
■ 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Sunday, Versiti Blood Center of Michigan, 2710 Cleveland Ave., St. Joseph.
■ Noon-7 p.m. Wednesday, Versiti Blood Center of Michigan, 2710 Cleveland Ave., St. Joseph.

Donors must be at least 17 years old (16 with parental consent) and weigh at least 112 pounds.

BEETLE BAILEY


THESE LOOK DIFFERENT. WHAT ARE THEY?
VEGGIE BURGERS!
WHAT KIND OF VEGGIES ARE THEY MADE OF?
THE BRUSSELS SPROUTS NO ONE ATE YESTERDAY
4-24
GREG'T MORT WALKER
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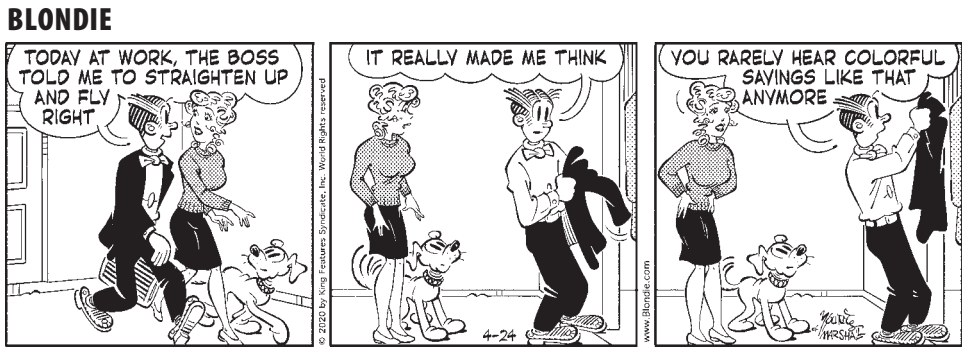
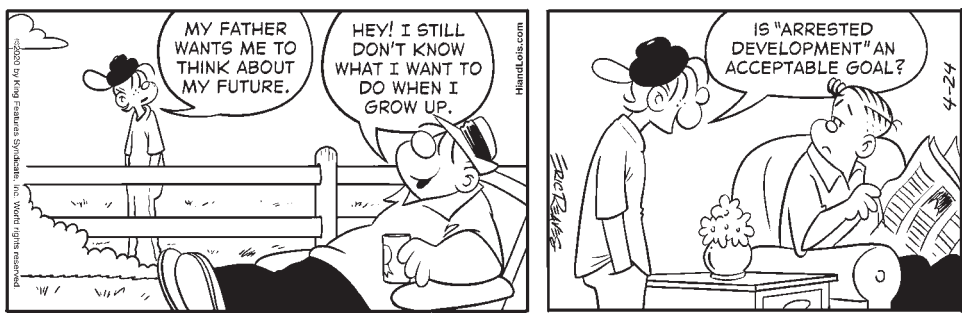
BLONDIE


TODAY AT WORK, THE BOSS TOLD ME TO STRAIGHTEN UP AND FLY RIGHT
IT REALLY MADE ME THINK
YOU RARELY HEAR COLORFUL SAYINGS LIKE THAT ANYMORE
4-24
© 2020 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World Rights reserved
www.Blondie.com

HI & LOIS


MY FATHER WANTS ME TO THINK ABOUT MY FUTURE.
HEY! I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT I WANT TO DO WHEN I GROW UP.
HiandLois.com
IS "ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT" AN ACCEPTABLE GOAL?
4-24
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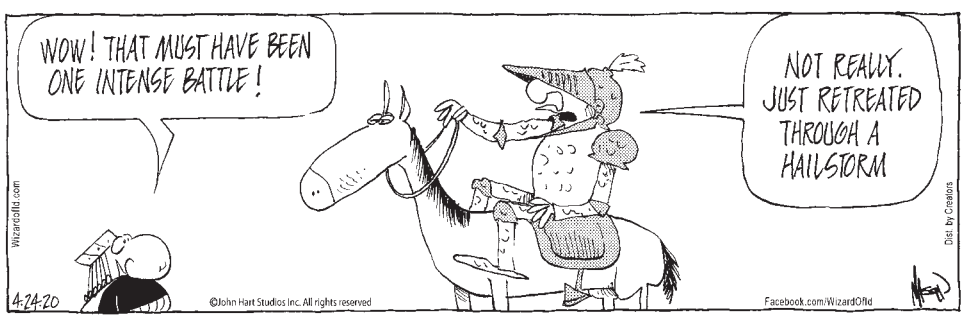
BC

WIZARD OF ID


WOW! THAT MUST HAVE BEEN ONE INTENSE BATTLE!
NOT REALLY. JUST RETREATED THROUGH A HAILSTORM
WizardofId.com
4-24-20
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Facebook.com/WizardOfId
Dist. by Creators

DILBERT

I CAN'T GET ANY WORK DONE AT HOME BECAUSE I KEEP HEARING YOUR FOOT-STEPS ALL DAY!
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS
EXCUSE ME FOR LIVING. I'LL TRY HOVERING FROM NOW ON.
CAN YOU DO THAT?
THERE'S A LOT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME.
4-24-20 2020 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by Andrews McMeel

GARFIELD

POOKY...
DON'T EVER CHANGE
FROM WHATEVER IT IS YOU ARE
© 2020 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved
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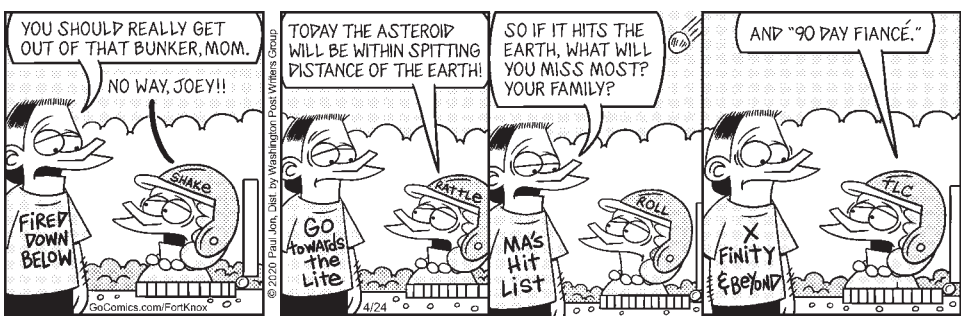
JIM DAVIS 4-24

FORT KNOX


YOU SHOULD REALLY GET OUT OF THAT BUNKER, MOM.
NO WAY, JOEY!!
FIRED DOWN BELOW
SNAKE
GoComics.com/FortKnox
TODAY THE ASTEROID WILL BE WITHIN SPITTING DISTANCE OF THE EARTH!
GO towards the Lite
RATTLE
SO IF IT HITS THE EARTH, WHAT WILL YOU MISS MOST? YOUR FAMILY?
MA's Hit List
ROLL
AND "90 DAY FIANCÉ."
X FINITY & BEYOND
TLC
4/24
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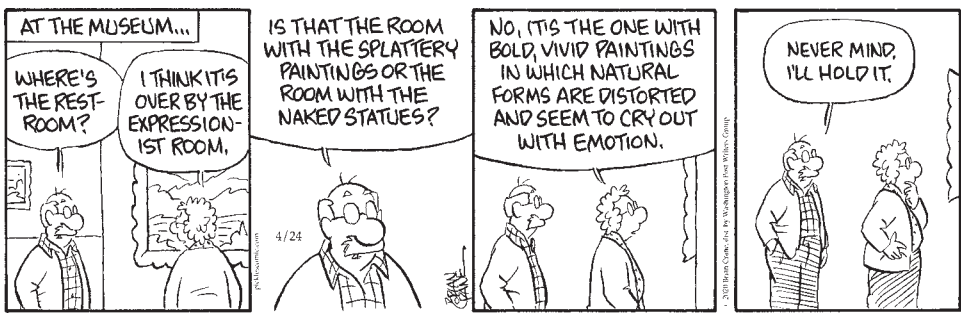
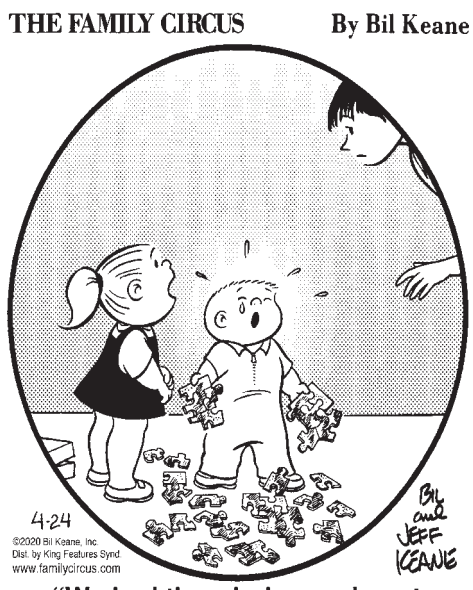
PICKLES


AT THE MUSEUM...
WHERE'S THE REST-ROOM?
I THINK IT'S OVER BY THE EXPRESSION-IST ROOM.
IS THAT THE ROOM WITH THE SPLATTERY PAINTINGS OR THE ROOM WITH THE NAKED STATUES?
4/24
NO, IT'S THE ONE WITH BOLD, VIVID PAINTINGS IN WHICH NATURAL FORMS ARE DISTORTED AND SEEM TO CRY OUT WITH EMOTION.
NEVER MIND. I'LL HOLD IT.

FAMILY CIRCUS

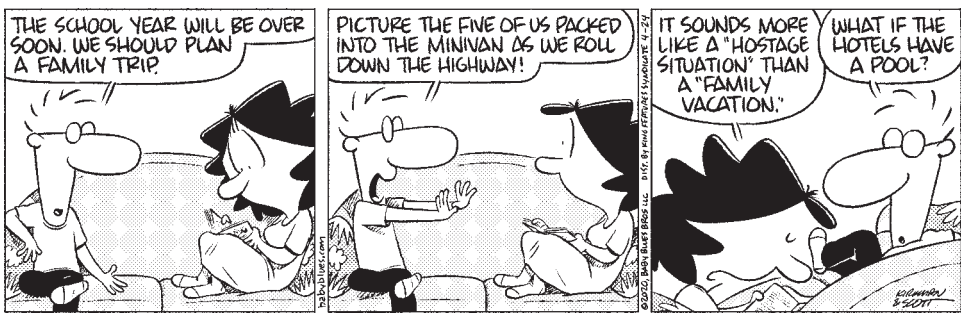


"We had the whole puzzle put together and PJ tried to pick it up to show it to you."

DENNIS THE MENACE

"I CAN'T WAIT TO GET OLDER... AND WISH I WAS YOUNGER."

BABY BLUES


THE SCHOOL YEAR WILL BE OVER SOON. WE SHOULD PLAN A FAMILY TRIP.
PICTURE THE FIVE OF US PACKED INTO THE MINIVAN AS WE ROLL DOWN THE HIGHWAY!
IT SOUNDS MORE LIKE A "HOSTAGE SITUATION" THAN A "FAMILY VACATION."
WHAT IF THE HOTELS HAVE A POOL?
©2020 Baby Blues Partners
Dist. by King Features Synd.
4-24

CURTIS

HI, MICHELLE, THANKS FOR "FACETIMING"!
HI, CURTIS
HOW'S THE SOCIAL ISOLATION GOING?
I'M DOING ALL I CAN TO KEEP MYSELF SAFE
AH, GOOD, GOOD
MAYBE I SHOULD TELL HER SHE DOESN'T HAVE TO WEAR A MASK TO FACETIME
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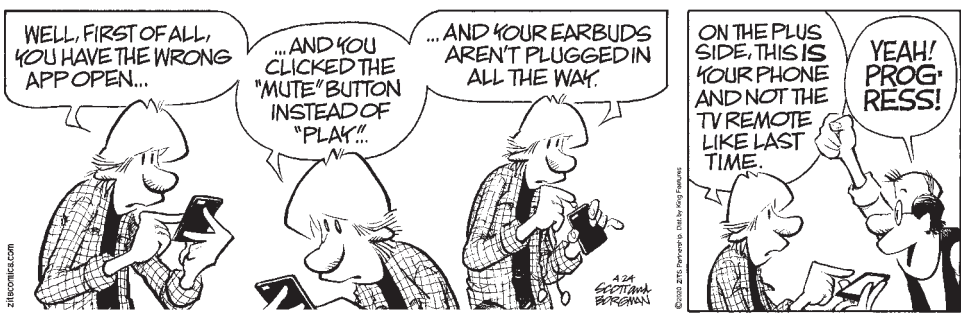
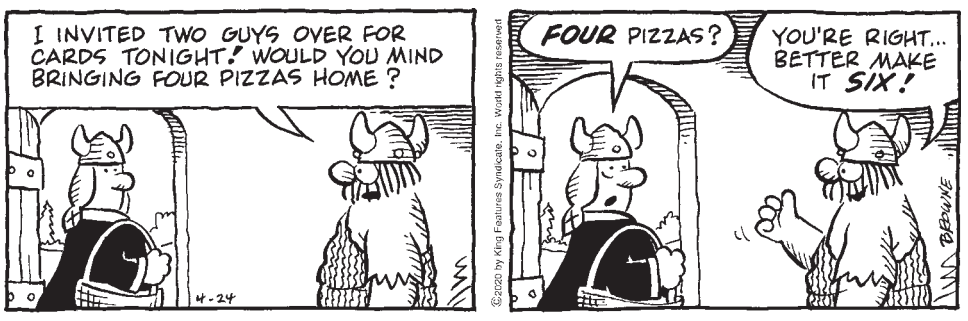
4-24

ZITS


WELL, FIRST OF ALL, YOU HAVE THE WRONG APP OPEN...
...AND YOU CLICKED THE "MUTE" BUTTON INSTEAD OF "PLAY"...
...AND YOUR EARBUDS AREN'T PLUGGED IN ALL THE WAY.
ON THE PLUS SIDE, THIS IS YOUR PHONE AND NOT THE TV REMOTE LIKE LAST TIME.
YEAH! PROG-RESS!
zitscomics.com
4-24
SCOTT & BORGMAN
©2020 ZITS Partnership Dist. by King Features

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE


I INVITED TWO GUYS OVER FOR CARDS TONIGHT! WOULD YOU MIND BRINGING FOUR PIZZAS HOME?
4-24
FOUR PIZZAS?
YOU'RE RIGHT... BETTER MAKE IT SIX!
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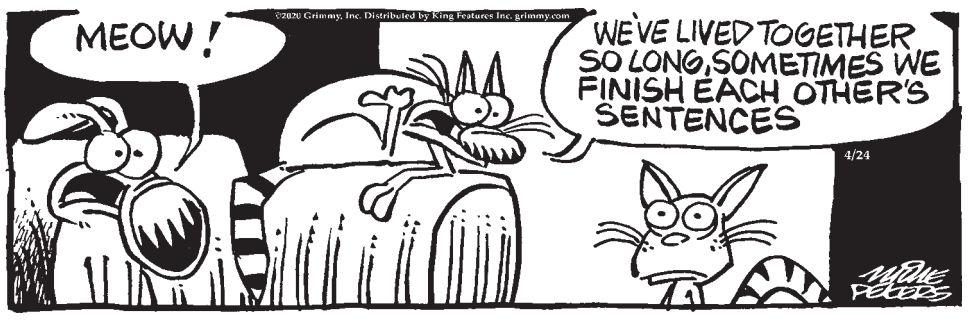
BROOME

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM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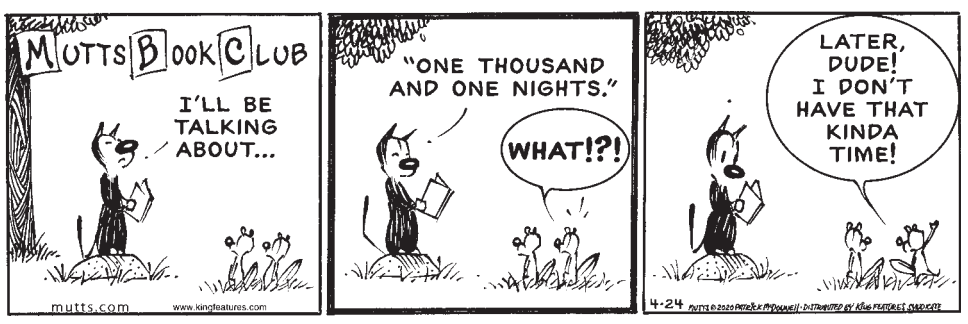
MEOW!
WE'VE LIVED TOGETHER SO LONG, SOMETIMES WE FINISH EACH OTHER'S SENTENCES
4/24
MIKE PETERS

MUTTS



SALLY FORTH

YOU WANNA SAY HI TO GRANDMA, HIL?
HI, GRANDMA! YOU'RE LOOKING GREAT AS ALWAYS!
4-24
AWW, SWEETIE! I MISS YOU!
MISS YOU, TOO! BUT HOPEFULLY YOU CAN COME WITH US ON OUR BIG SUMMER TRIP WE ALWAYS TAKE!
YOU'RE TRAVELING THIS SUMMER?
HIL, ABOUT THAT...
IT'S ONLY APRIL! THINGS CHANGE! DO NOT TAKE THIS AWAY FROM ME QUITE YET!
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KEEFE

Be a history explorer

The entire archive of The Herald-Palladium and its forerunner newspapers, dating back more than 150 years, is now available online in a text-searchable format

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Look for handy tutorials to help you learn how to use the site effectively

PRIME TIME TV

FRIDAY EVENING APR. 24

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC 7 13 41 57	:00 **2020 NFL Draft** Interviews and highlights with the players selected in the second and third rounds by NFL teams. (N) (L) CC						
CBS 2 3 22	**Ent. Tonight**	**MacGyver** (N) CC		**Magnum P.I.** "The Night Has Eyes" (N)		**Blue Bloods** "Hide in Plain Sight" (N)	
NBC 5 8 16	**Ac. Hollywood**	**The Blacklist** "Nyle Hatcher" (N) CC		**Dateline NBC** (N) CC			
FOX 17 22 28 32	**Modern Family**	**WWE Friday Night SmackDown** (N) (L)				**Fox 17 News at 10:00PM** (N) CC	
PBS 34	**Overheard**	**Washington Week**	**Firing-Hoover**	**Somewhere South** "It's a Greens Thing"		**International Jazz Day From Australia**	
CW 25	**Big Bang Theory**	**Penn & Teller: Fool Us** "Virtual Reality"		**Whose Line Is It?**	**Whose Line Is It?**	**News**	**Seinfeld** CC
MNT 50	**Family Feud** (N)	**Chicago P.D.** "Last Minute Resistance"		**CSI: Miami** "Kill Clause" CC		**CSI: Miami** "Count Me Out" CC	
WCIU 26	**Mike & Molly**	**Penn & Teller: Fool Us** "Virtual Reality"		**Whose Line Is It?**	**Whose Line Is It?**	**2 Broke Girls**	**2 Broke Girls**
WHME 46	:00 **Heartland**	**Heartland** CC (DVS)		**Highway to Heaven** CC		**Nightly News**	
WGN 9	**News**	**black-ish**	**black-ish** CC	**Last Man Standing**	**Last Man Standing**	**WGN News at Nine** (N) (L) CC	
A&E	5:00 **Live PD** CC	**Live PD: Rewind** (N) CC		**Live PD** "Live PD -- 04.24.20" (N) (L) CC			
AMC	**Gran Torino** ('08, Drama) Clint Eastwood, Bee Vang. A veteran faces his longtime prejudices. CC					**Friday Night**	**Unforgiven**
Animal	**Tanked**	**Tanked: Sea-Lebrity Edition** (N)				**Tanked** CC	
BET	**'Til Death**	**We Belong Together** ('18) Cassidey Fralin. CC					**Martin**
Big Ten	**BTN in 60**	**Michigan Basketball**		**The Journey**		**The Journey**	
Bravo	:00 **Shahs of Sunset**	**Shahs of Sunset** (N) CC		**Shahs of Sunset** (N) CC		**Watch What**	**Movie** CC
Cartoon	**Gumball**	**Final Sp.**	**Final Sp.**	**Burgers**	**Rick**	**American**	**American**
Cinemax	**BlacKkKlansman**	**★★ Grudge Match** ('13, Comedy) Robert De Niro, Sylvester Stallone. CC				9:55 **★★ The Lucky Ones** ('08)	
CMT	**Last Man**	**Mom**	**Mom**	**Mom**	**Mom**	**Mom**	**Mom**
CNBC	**Greed**	**American Greed**		**American Greed**		**American Greed**	
CNN	**OutFront**	**Anderson Cooper**		**Cuomo Prime Time**		**CNN Tonight**	
Comedy	**Tosh.0**	**Tosh.0**	**Tosh.0**	**Tosh.0**	**Tosh.0**	**John Mulaney**	
Discovery	**Gold Rush**	**Gold Rush** (N) CC				:02 **Alaska: The Last Frontier** (N) CC	
Disney	**Bunk'd**	**★★ Dr. Seuss' the Lorax**			**Raven**	**Just Roll**	**Coop**
DIY	**Beach**	**Beachfrnt Reno**		**Beachfrnt Reno**		**Beachfrnt Reno**	
E!	:00 **★★★ Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire** ('05) CC						**Shes All**
ESPN	:00 **2020 NFL Draft** (N) (L)						
ESPN2	**Basket.**	**30 for 30** CC			**High School Basketball**		
ESPNC	**Football**	**College Football** From Nov. 6, 2004.				**College Football**	
Food	**Diners**	**Diners**	**Diners**	**Diners**	**Diners**	**Diners**	**Diners**
Fox News	**The Story**	**Tucker Carlson**		**Hannity** (N) CC		**The Ingraham Angle**	
Fox Sports	**Bask**	**Red Wings Classics** Game 3. (N)					**Focused**
Freefrm	**Family Guy**	**Family Guy**	**Family Guy**	**★★★ Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** ('05, Children's) Johnny Depp. CC			
FX	**Maze Runner**	**★★ Maze Runner: The Death Cure** ('18) Dylan O'Brien. (P). Thomas leads the Gladers into a WCKD-controlled labyrinth.					
Golf	:00 **LPGA Tour Golf** CC				**PGA Tour Golf** CC		
Hallmark	**All Things Valentine**	**Christmas at Dollywood** ('19, Comedy) Niall Matter, Danica McKellar. CC				**Tulips in Spring** ('16) CC	
HBO	:45 **Run** "Kiss" CC		:20 **★★ Stuber** ('19) Dave Bautista, Kumail Nanjiani. CC			**Real Time With Bill Maher** (N) CC	
History	**Aliens**	**Ancient Aliens**		:02 **Ancient Aliens**		:05 **Ancient Aliens**	
HGTV	**Smart**	**Dream**	**Dream**	**Dream**	**Dream**	**Dream**	**Dream**
Learning	**90 Day**	**90 Day Fiancé: Before the 90 Days** (N)				**90 Day**	**90 Day**
Lifetime	**King of Queens**	**King of Queens**	**King of Queens**	**King of Queens**	**King of Queens**	**King of Queens**	**King of Queens**
MSNBC	**Decision**	**All In With**		**Rachel Maddow**		**The Last Word**	
MTV	**★★ The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2**					**MTV Special** CC	
NBCSCH	**Sports**	**White Sox Rewind** From July 4, 2005.					
NFL	:00 **2020 NFL Draft** Coverage of rounds 2 and 3 of the NFL Draft. (N) CC						
Nick	**Cloudy With Meatballs**			**Dylan**	**Sponge.**	**Friends**	**Friends**
NGEO	**Lockup**	**Lockup: Boston**		**Lockup: Boston**		**Lockup: Cincinnati**	
Oxygen	**Deadly Cults**	**Dateline: Secrets Uncovered** (N) CC		**Snapped** "Alaina Mercer" CC		**Snapped** A man dies while hunting. CC	
Parmt	**Two Men**	**★★★★ Raiders of the Lost Ark** ('81) CC					**Indiana J.**
Showtime	**Longest War**	:15 **★ Peppermint** ('18, Action) Jennifer Garner, John Gallagher Jr. CC				**SCB30** CC	
Starz	**★ The Intruder**	**Vida** "Episode 1"	:36 **Vida** CC	:08 **Vida** CC	:44 **Vida** Mari is publicly humiliated.		:16 **Vida** CC
STZENC	6:31 **★★ Funny People** ('09) Adam Sandler. CC			**★★ X-Men Origins: Wolverine** ('09, Action) Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber. CC			
SyFy	:00 **★★★ Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire** ('05, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint. CC (DVS)					**★ R.I.P.D.** ('13) Jeff Bridges. CC	
TBS	6:30 **★★ San Andreas** ('15, Action) Dwayne Johnson.			**★★★ Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2** ('17) Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana. CC (DVS)			
TCM	**Holly.-Makeup**	**★★★★ Double Indemnity** ('44) Fred MacMurray, Barbara Stanwyck. CC				**★★ There's Always Tomorrow**	
TMC	**★★ Second Act**	**★★★ Analyze This** ('99) Robert De Niro. (P). CC			:45 **★★ Phenomenon** ('96, Drama) John Travolta. CC		
TNT	:00 **Bones**	**★★★ Wonder Woman** ('17, Action) Gal Gadot. CC (DVS)					
Travel	**Paranorm.**	**Paranormal Ca.**		**Paranormal Ca.**		**Paranormal Ca.**	
TV Land	**Andy G.**	**Raymond**	**Raymond**	**Raymond**	**Raymond**	**Two Men**	**Two Men**
USA	:00 **★★★ Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire** ('05, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint. CC (DVS)					**Modern Family**	**Modern Family**
VH1	**RuPaul**	**RuPaul's Drag Race** (N) CC			**RuPaul's Drag Race** (N) CC		
WGN-A	**Last Man Standing**	**Last Man Standing**	**Last Man Standing**	**Last Man Standing**	**Last Man Standing**	**Last Man Standing**	**Last Man Standing**

Asthma action plan crucial for those with the disease

Elizabeth Ko & Eve Glazier
Ask the Doctors

DEAR DOCTOR: Our 8-year-old grandson is coming from Atlanta to spend the summer with us in Idaho. He has asthma, and our daughter has mentioned that my husband and I have to become familiar with his "asthma action plan." What is that? How should we prepare?

DEAR READER: An asthma action plan is a detailed roadmap for how to manage the disease, including medications and methods for preventing and controlling asthma attacks. It's necessary because asthma, which is a chronic respiratory disease, is both complex and serious. It can cause symptoms that change not only from day to day but from minute to minute.

For most of us, the act of breathing is effortless. But people living with asthma can never take their next easy breath for granted. The airways of someone who has asthma can suddenly become inflamed and swollen, which makes it difficult to inhale and exhale. This type of chronic inflammation puts their airways on perpetual high alert and makes the tissues liable to overreact to a range of stimuli. These are known as triggers and include dust, pollution, mold, perfumes, smoke, pet dander and other allergens, as well as exertion and even certain weather conditions. Any of these triggers can cause asthma symptoms, which include a wheezing sound when someone breathes, shallow and rapid breathing, sustained coughing fits, labored breathing and weakness or exhaustion.

During an asthma attack, or flare-up, the airways become swollen enough that it becomes very difficult, or even impossible, to breathe. In addition, the groups of muscles that usually help with breathing will tighten up, making getting enough air even more challenging.

The disease is managed with two types of medications – controllers and relievers. Controllers are typically corticosteroids delivered via an aerosol, which is inhaled. They are used in the day-to-day management of asthma to reduce chronic inflammation, decrease mucus production and relax the bands of muscles around the airways. People with mild asthma may find that this treatment is sufficient to keep the disease under control. Relievers are medications to be used when an asthma attack occurs. They work by swiftly opening up the airways and relaxing the muscles, which either stops the attack or reduces its severity.

Because asthma is both unpredictable and potentially dangerous, it's important to plan ahead for all eventualities. That's where the asthma action plan comes into play. It's a written set of instructions that detail every aspect of an individual's asthma treatment. This includes potential triggers for an asthma attack, which medications to take, their dosages, their timing and what to do in an emergency. In addition to being familiar with this plan, be sure your local pharmacy has your grandson's asthma prescriptions on file, and that they include enough refills to last his entire visit. It's also wise to line up local medical help, in case it is needed.

Some schools and recreational programs require a written asthma action plan on file before allowing a child to attend, so if your grandson will be taking part in any organized activities, be prepared to share the document with them.

Ask your daughter to send you a copy of your grandson's action plan before he arrives. This will allow you to familiarize yourself with the specifics, and ask any questions you may have well in advance. Or you can find a variety of printable or electronic forms at cdc.gov/asthma/actionplan.html.

Eve Glazier, M.D., MBA, is an internist and associate professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Elizabeth Ko, M.D., is an internist and assistant professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Send your questions to askthedoctors@mednet.ucla.edu, or write: Ask the Doctors, c/o UCLA Health Sciences Media Relations, 10880 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1450, Los Angeles, CA, 90024. Owing to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

Tired of being the initiator

Carolyn Hax

HI, CAROLYN: I wonder if you can help me sort out the hurt and anger I have come to feel in some of my friendships. I find myself often being the initiator for getting together with my peers. In general I'm a leader type, confident, extroverted. I typically reach out first when I want to see someone or talk.

But I get tired of my role as the initiator. So then I go quiet, sometimes for many weeks, and ... don't hear from some of my friends, then miss them, want to see them, and ... I cave, and initiate coffee, drinks at my house, or a walk. Nearly always my overtures are reciprocated; I believe they are genuinely glad to hear from me.

I don't do most social media, so I understand I am choosing not to be as present in those ways.

Even though I am a happily married woman with (not small) children, I may simply crave more friend time than my peer group. Or maybe I just go after what I want or need, not a bad thing. One of my single friends jokingly refers to me as her "other single friend" because I do my own thing, not just the couples/family stuff.

Do I just suck it up and accept that I'm the initiator? – Initiator

INITIATOR: Yes.

This is your skill, your strength, your contribution to your friendships.

Your friends contribute, too, in ways that reflect their strengths – because if they gave you nothing, then you wouldn't miss them and keep them as your friends, right?

Maybe you're fortunate to count a great listener among your people.

Maybe there's one who never initiates but always shows up – for you, for others, for anyone. With an appetizer.

Maybe there's one who can always be counted on to organize the group gift.

Maybe you have one or two who are utterly unreliable except in their ability to make you laugh or open your eyes to a perspective that would otherwise never have occurred to you.

Maybe there are a few who never fail to stay late and help clean up.

Maybe you have an optimist to lift you up. Maybe you have a pessimist who gets that things don't always happen for a reason.

Maybe this is starting to sound like we're casting for a new boy band, and I'm OK with that.

Anyway.

So, yes, even though your complaint is valid, you suck it up – though embracing the current distribution of labor among your companions would be even better.

It's fair and understandable to want your friends, just once in a long while even, to give you what you so reliably give to them. And if you think it would be of any use, then by all means confide in one or three of them that you'd like someone to pinch-hit for you occasionally on making plans ... or, seriously, *call* you sometimes. Maybe there's no objection, only inertia, all they need is a nudge.

But it's also more reliable to find solutions built from your status quo. That includes acknowledging that your friends don't always give you what you want but that you do still want what they give. Getting more of it might just mean adding more extroverts to your roster of friends.

Email Carolyn at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Tote
5 Handlebar feature
9 Chuck Yeager, e.g.
12 Ms. Bombeck
13 Went by car
14 Walk softly
15 Enthralled
16 FitzGerald's poet
17 When Paris sizzles
18 Remark
20 Bricklayer
22 Whopper
23 Derrick arm
24 TV statuettes
27 Very strong
30 Aussie jumper
31 Starr and Kyser
33 Unheeding
35 Weather word
37 Boarding school
39 Age
40 Disturb
42 Helpful book feature
44 Road map info
45 Opposite of "paleo"
46 Reeves of "Speed"
49 Friendly
53 Boxing great
54 Widen a hole
56 Portuguese lady
57 Outer edge
58 Bay Area valley
59 Collar style
60 Musical notes
61 Took to court
62 Great dog?

DOWN
1 Villain's foe
2 Swift horse
3 Out callers
4 Recently
5 Orchard
6 Trevi Fountain site
7 Snake River loc.
8 Allow
9 Imitates
10 Roman historian
11 Paradise
19 Take a chance
21 Sleeping
23 Baseball's — Canseco
24 Hesitant sounds
25 "— Lisa"
26 El Cid foe
27 Fiery stack
28 Extreme poverty
29 Scale button
32 Altar end
34 Send via phone
36 Frazzled
38 Bridge support
41 Traffic no-no's (hyph.)
43 Drowsed (off)
45 Wanderer
46 Not-so-funny Marx
47 Director — Kazan
48 Prepares to fire
49 Superman's attire
50 Modicum
51 Soon
52 Narrow road
55 Paris thirst-quencher

Answer to Previous Puzzle

I	D	Y	L	L				S	H	A	W	
R	A	D	I	A	L		C	A	E	S	A	R
A	B	S	O	R	B		Z	U	R	I	C	H
			N	I	S	S	A	N		F	O	O
		P	I	S	A		P	R	A	M		
W	I	G			T	R	I		S	E	E	N
E	L	L				I	N	C		M	E	E	T
D	O	O	M			B	O	A			R	A	E
		T	O	G	A		U	P	S		I	R	E
				M	E	A	T		U	S	E	S	
E	S	A		R	U	S	T	I	C				
S	P	R	A	I	N		S	T	A	B	L	E	
C	U	T	L	E	T		P	E	R	I	O	D	
	D	Y	E	S				D	E	G	A	S	

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HHCTU

SIHTO

LLDAYG

BRIFEB

You're welcome to take that to a table to read it.
Thanks! But I'm just browsing.
SHE OPENED THE BOOK ABOUT TREES SO SHE COULD ---
4/24

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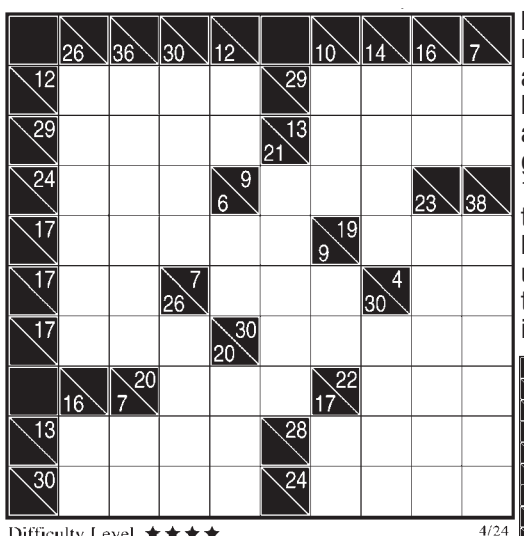
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

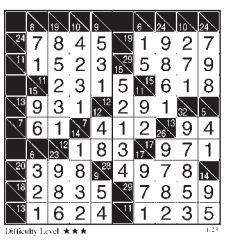
Yesterday's Jumbles: STYLE PROWL SUMMER FONDLY
Answer: The horse didn't love the idea of being urged to speed up at the — SPUR OF THE MOMENT

KAKURO



Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/24

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.



BRIDGE

Bridge tournaments in the south of France are delightful. The bridge takes place from 4-8 p.m., leaving the day free for athletic pursuits like golf, tennis and swimming, or for lazing in the sunshine on the beach. In the evening, you may sample the gastronomical and oenological delights of the area.

The tournament held in Juan-les-Pins, on the Cote d'Azur, used to be very popular. Players flocked from all over Europe, and occasionally you saw some strange sights. Once, a sunburned Englishman was asked why he was so red. Wishing to demonstrate his knowledge of the local lingo, he replied, "Je suis rouge parce que le soleil est ruddy hot."

In 1954, Philadelphians Charles and Peggy Solomon battled for five days in the main pairs event, finishing a praiseworthy second and winning a lot of francs. Charles was Life Master No. 16, won 14 national titles and was the World Bridge Federation President from 1964-68. Peggy was also a top player with 12 national championships to her credit.

They defended today's deal perfectly en route to their second place.

The bidding comes from the days of four-card majors, and now an expert sitting South would prefer a takeout double (or pass) over one heart. Also, North would advance with two no-trump.

Declarer looked destined to lose only two hearts and three diamonds, but Charles found the killing defense. He won Peggy's heart lead with the king, cashed the heart ace and led a third heart. Declarer ruffed, crossed to dummy with a spade and played a trump. Charles won with his ace and led the last heart, generating a fourth trump trick for the defense.

North 04-24-20
♠ A Q 7
♥ J 10 8 5
♦ 7 2
♣ A 10 7 3

West
♠ J 6 4 3
♥ Q 6 4
♦ J 3
♣ 8 6 4 2

East
♠ 9 8 2
♥ A K 7 3
♦ A Q 10 9
♣ 9 5

South
♠ K 10 5
♥ 9 2
♦ K 8 6 5 4
♣ K Q J

Dealer: East
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
			1♥
2♦	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ 4

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

8		1		6	4			
		3		2				
	4	6	3		9			
		4		8			6	
7			1	5	6			2
	6			4		5		
			4		8	7	5	
				7		3		
			2	9		4		6

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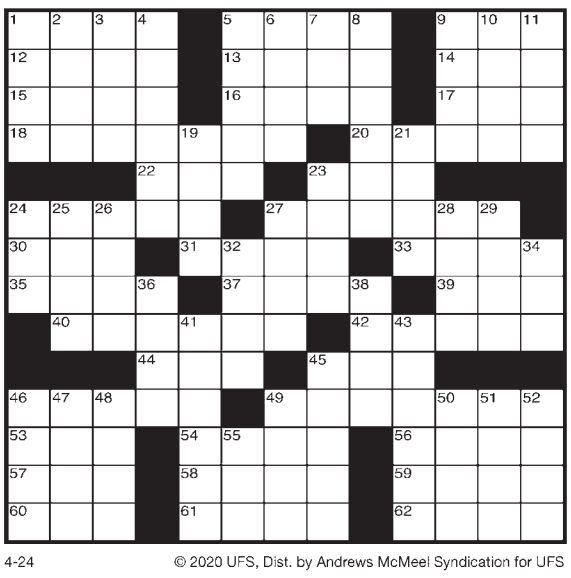
How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

3	7	4	1	5	2	8	6	9
5	2	6	3	9	8	7	4	1
8	1	9	6	7	4	5	2	3
6	9	3	8	2	5	1	7	4
2	4	8	7	1	9	3	5	6
7	5	1	4	3	6	2	9	8
9	6	7	5	8	3	4	1	2
4	8	5	2	6	1	9	3	7
1	3	2	9	4	7	6	8	5



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hp SPORTS

Ivey introduced as new Irish coach, succeeding retired McGraw

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

Niele Ivey is coming home.

Ivey was introduced as the new coach of the Notre Dame women's basketball team on Thursday, succeeding her mentor, Muffet McGraw, who retired a day earlier.

"Those are big heels to fill," Ivey said during an online news conference. "When you follow a legend, it's not easy. But I want to be myself. Always be true to myself, try to stay as authentic as I can."

The 42-year-old, who got emotional at times during the news conference while sitting with her son, Jaden, has been preparing for this job for much of her adult life.

She helped lead the Fighting Irish to a national championship as the point guard in 2001 and was an assistant coach on the Notre Dame team that won the title in 2018. She was on the Memphis Grizzlies staff last year after 17 seasons at Notre Dame.

"I am thrilled Niele will be the next leader of the Notre Dame basketball program," said McGraw, who spent 33 years as the head coach of the Irish before retiring Wednesday. "She's one of the best young coaches in the game today, and her success with the Grizzlies has helped make her even more prepared for her new role."

Notre Dame athletic director Jack Swarbrick said the succession plan was first discussed about two years ago and that no one else was considered for the job.

"As long as Niele remained interested and available, whenever Muffet made that decision, this was the path we'd move in," he said.

McGraw described her protege as charismatic.

"She's someone that people are attracted to. A smile that lights up the gym," she said. "So fun to be around. Can flip the switch and be serious and intense as anyone in the gym."

Ivey was one of the most sought-after assistant coaches in women's basketball, but she never took any of the jobs, saying she didn't want to uproot her son when he was in high school. He's headed to college in the fall.

When the Grizzlies offered her an assistant coaching position last year, McGraw told her she couldn't turn it down. Ivey left a big mark on the NBA team in her one season.

"She's about to go crazy at Notre Dame. I can tell this is something that really is a good fit for her. ... Everything she's done this season to prep us for a game, help us on our game," Memphis guard Jaren Jackson Jr. said. "She's unreal, and I'm just really happy for her."

Ivey said she's learned a lot from McGraw and that the biggest difference between the two is that the new coach is more "warm and fuzzy".

"I'm used to being in that role," she said. "I just show my emotions a little more than she does. That would be the difference. Philosophy, I had so much knowledge being under coach McGraw, you'll see a lot of the same style of play as coach McGraw's system."

Ivey, who is just the fourth coach in school history, inherits a team that was 13-18 last season – only the second losing season under McGraw.

For Bears, business figures to pick up in 2nd round of draft

By ANDREW SELIGMAN
Associated Press

Bears general manager Ryan Pace said it's up to management, scouts and coaches to "maximize the draft picks we have" and "capitalize" on the opportunities to cross more items off Chicago's to-do list.

The work will have to wait a bit longer: The first night of the NFL draft figured to be an uneventful one for the Bears, with no first-round picks for the second year in a row. They dealt them to Oakland in a blockbuster trade for star pass rusher Khalil Mack prior to the 2018 season.

Business will likely pick up on Friday. The Bears have a pair of second-round picks at Nos. 43 and 50 overall and seven picks in all through Saturday.

Clearly, the Bears still have work to do after going 8-8. They began last season with Super Bowl hopes only to miss the playoffs for the eighth time in nine years, a major letdown after winning the NFC North at 12-4 in 2018.

The Bears need more playmakers to complement receiver Allen Robinson and boost an offense that ranked among the league's worst. They also need better blocking to protect quarterbacks Mitchell Trubisky and Nick Foles after Chicago gave up 45 sacks and ranked near the bottom of the NFL at at 3.7 yards per rushing attempt.

Even the defense – one of the NFL's best the past few years – has holes. The Bears could use a cornerback and safety to complement Kyle Fuller and Eddie Jackson with Prince Amukamara and Ha Ha Clinton-Dix both gone.

If Pace decides to address the offense with his first two picks, Notre Dame tight end Cole Kmet would be a good fit at No. 43 to go with offseason pickups Jimmy Graham and Demetrius Harris. If they then go with a receiver at 50, Penn State's KJ Hamler or TCU's Jalen Reagor might be possibilities.

But if the Bears opt for secondary help with their early picks, the options might include cornerbacks A.J. Terrell of Clemson, Jaylon Johnson of Utah and Trevon Diggs of Alabama.

So far, it's been a busy offseason for Pace. The Bears brought in Robert Quinn to take pressure off Mack on the edge, signing the former All-Pro pass rusher to a five-year, $70 million contract. They also signed Graham, hoping the veteran can show some of the form that made him a five-time Pro Bowl pick for New Orleans and Seattle after being released by Green Bay. Pace had a hand in drafting him working in the Saints' front office, and the Bears got little production from their tight ends.

But the most notable move was the trade with Jacksonville for Foles.

The Bears have just two picks in the first 162 and none in the third or fourth rounds Saturday. Unless they make a trade, they won't go again until their turn comes up in the fifth at No. 163 overall. They also have two selections each in the sixth (196, 200) and seventh (226, 233).

Turning the corner at No. 3

Paul Sancya

The Detroit Lions drafted Ohio State cornerback Jeff Okudah with the third pick in the NFL draft on Thursday.

Lions select Ohio St. cornerback Okudah in first round of NFL draft Thursday

By LARRY LAGE
Associated Press

The Detroit Lions selected Ohio State cornerback Jeff Okudah in the NFL draft Thursday night.

Detroit went into the opening round desperately needing to help a defense that ranked No. 31 in the league last season.

The Lions were expected to take Okudah or linebacker Isaiah Simmons if they didn't trade out of the high slot to acquire multiple picks. Both Okudah and Simmons have the type of talent to improve the team's most glaring weakness.

Okudah, though, seems to fit perfectly.

The 6-foot-1, 205-pound Okudah can blanket receivers in man-to-man coverage and make tackles to stop the run. He is the highest-drafted cornerback since Shawn Springs was selected from the same school by Seattle in the 1997 draft.

The Lions were last in the NFL against in the pass last season and then traded three-time Pro Bowl cornerback Darius Slay to Philadelphia last month for draft picks. Signing cornerback Desmond Trufant, who turns 30 in September, after Atlanta released him last month appears to be a solid move even if it is only a short-term solution.

Okudah should be able to take care of one side of the field for years to come.

General manager Bob Quinn and coach Matt Patricia need their first-round pick to pan out this year and it may help their job security if some other selections also contribute right away as rookies. Owner Martha Firestone Ford brought back Quinn for a fifth year and Patricia for his third year, but made clear contending for the playoffs was the expectation.

Quinn and Patricia are counting on quarterback Matthew Stafford being healthy. He missed the second half of last season with a back injury, leading to a nine-game losing streak. The 32-year-old Stafford has three years left on his $135 million deal.

The franchise certainly has more needs on defense, but there are also voids on offense. Quinn let guard Graham Glasgow go in free agency, raising concerns about Stafford having enough time to throw to receivers such as Kenny Golladay.

Detroit went into the draft with three picks on Friday, including the No. 35 overall pick. The Lions have nine selections overall, including a pair of picks in the third and fifth rounds from the Slay trade. They have five late picks to potentially trade up to land a player they covet.

One constant in this unique NFL draft: Burrow at the top, taken by Bengals

By BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

In this most unique of drafts, filled with technological concerns and even uncertainty when real football might return, there was one constant Thursday night: Joe Burrow.

For months, the national champion quarterback from LSU was linked with the Bengals. Cincinnati began the draft by sending the name of the Heisman Trophy winner to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell in the basement of his home.

This digital/remote/virtual draft – take your choice – was up and running. With no apparent glitches.

Of course, there were no fireworks on the Las Vegas Strip. No bear hug between Goodell and Burrow; the commissioner said he would miss those, even if his body wouldn't. The most basic of selection meetings, organized in this manner due to the coronavirus pandemic, has team personnel making picks from their homes. And players learning their future employers in their homes.

"I do believe this draft is going to be the most memorable we have ever had," said Goodell, noting that it is accompanied by a "Draft-A-Thon" to benefit six organizations on the front lines battling the pandemic.

First came Burrow: In his spectacular senior season, he threw for 60 – yes, 60 – touchdowns with only six interceptions. The Tigers beat six top 10 teams on their way to the national title.

"To jump up to No. 1 overall is crazy to me," Burrow said. "But it's a dream come true. I wasn't very good my junior year. I worked really hard to get better, my guys worked really hard to get better, and we jelled as a team."

Bengals coach Zac Taylor was confident Burrow could turn the franchise around after a 2-14 season.

"We will never pick at No. 1 again," Taylor said. "We don't want to pick in the top 10 again. We're looking at this as the only time you're going to get this caliber player to add him to the program, so obviously this is a big deal."

The second overall selection, Ohio State All-America edge rusher Chase Young, also was predictable. Washington fielded several offers for that spot, but many scouts and personnel executives felt Young was the best player in this crop.

At 6-foot-5, 264 pounds, Young led the nation with 16 ½ sacks and forced fumbles with six last season.

Saints take Michigan center Cesar Ruiz with 24th pick

By BRETT MARTEL
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The New Orleans Saints selected Michigan center Cesar Ruiz with the 24th overall pick in the NFL draft on Thursday night.

The 6-foot-3, 307-pound Ruiz joins an offensive line that has all five starters returning, including center Erik McCoy, who was New Orleans' top draft pick a year ago in the second round.

The Saints, however, value linemen who have versatility and Ruiz could provide important depth, if not compete for a starting role, at any of the interior line positions.

The pick also strengthens the unit responsible for protecting record-setting 41-year-old quarterback Drew Brees.

The Saints have most core players back from the past three seasons, all of which included NFC South Division crowns – and 13-3 records each of the past two regular seasons.

With no glaring holes no the roster, the Saints had flexibility in choosing the player they liked best, regardless of position.

However, it appeared that a top linebacker or receiver could help the most.

Instead, they went with Ruiz, who joins an offense that ranked ninth in the NFL last season, averaging 373.9 yards per game, including 265.3 yards through the air and 108.6 yards on the ground.

The Herald-Palladium

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Job description is posted at the Township Hall or email hagarclerk@gmail.com

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Galien Township Sexton Position Available

The Galien Township Board is seeking a Cemetery Sexton. Duties will include opening and closing of graves, snow plowing and pouring of foundations. Interested parties should submit a letter of interest along with references to the Galien Township PO Box 246, Galien, MI 49113 or by email to jen.galientwp@gmail.com.
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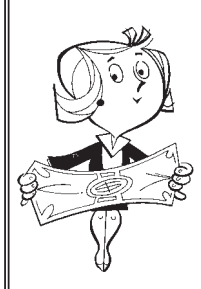

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Happy 13th Birthday

Tre Petersen!!!

We hope you have an amazing day!

Love Dad, Mom & Chase

HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

Slow or impulsive actions will lead to problems this year. Consistency, sticking to the facts and putting your heart and soul into getting what you want will help you reach your objective. Walk away from situations and people that will hold you back instead of supporting your efforts.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Take control and turn an idea into something concrete. Channel your energy into something productive instead of arguing with someone who won't budge. Take care of your responsibilities before doing anything else.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Don't trust someone to be straight with you. Be direct about your feelings and expectations. Walk away from unhealthy situations. Focus on personal growth.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Help others, but don't let anyone take you for granted. Attend a reunion or reconnect with an old friend. Take advantage of an opportunity, even if it means making a lifestyle adjustment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Promote the services you have to offer. You'll make an impression on someone who can provide you with support and excellent suggestions. Don't let an emotional incident slow you down.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Make a change that will give you freedom to explore new possibilities. Make a transformation at home that will provide you with the space you need to pursue your dream.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Express your concerns and lay down rules. Refuse to let anyone walk all over you. Aim to improve your relationships by striving for equality. Romance is encouraged.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) An unfamiliar place will spark your curiosity and inspire you to try something new. Check out real estate or an investment that will push you to make a move.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Do something constructive, and don't stop until you make progress. Don't neglect a problem that's hanging over you. Altering your lifestyle may be required to make things better.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Get together with people you don't see often. Revisit an old idea, as it may inspire you. Make choices that will contribute to your happiness.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Read the fine print. Take charge by saying no to temptation and rejecting plans that put you at a disadvantage. Be observant and get the facts and figures before you promise to do something.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Make sure to be fully prepared before revealing your intentions. Honesty and fair play will make a difference. If you are willing to compromise, everyone else will be as well.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) If you speak from the heart, you will get a good response. Someone close to you will offer insight into your options that will help you make an adjustment and come to a decision.

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St. Joseph, MI
49085-0128

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Classified Department
P.O. Box 128
St. Joseph, MI
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If the advertiser is among the names you don't want to contact, we will destroy your sealed letter.

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LETTERS

Reopening requires testing, testing, testing

Editor,

As we struggle to get ahead of the COVID-19 pandemic, the president is talking about reopening the country. Any reopening needs to be precisely planned, ensuring all necessary tools are in place and properly executed. If planning and execution are not done with validity and precision, this monster could return with a vengeance.

A major obstacle to this will be Trump himself, as he has a problem planning and executing anything that does not fit between successive tweets.

Solving the existing testing problem is a key factor of any reopening strategy. The executive director of the Big Cities Health Coalition representing public health departments of cities including New York, Boston, Los Angeles and Chicago has stated:

"Many local communities are flying blind, making decisions in the absence of full information largely due to the failure of the federal government to provide sufficient testing capacity. This testing shortage, and lack of available information about the actual burden of the virus, has set our country's response back by an order of magnitude we will never know."

On March 6 the president stated: "Anyone who wants a test can get a test." It was not true then and is not true at the writing of this letter.

Trump's self-centered concern about being blamed for the disastrous spread of COVID-19, and the negative affect it might have on his re-election prospects, has been a consistent driver of his actions from the beginning. It must not be the basis for getting things running again.

Ed Shaffer
Galien

Defiance is affront to health care workers

Editor,

This is to address the letter of Lori Katowich ("Governor's order intentionally ambiguous") published April 22. This is an affront to all the health care workers worldwide (myself included) and especially here in Southwest Michigan working long hard hours caring for and trying to save the lives of people infected with COVID-19 at severe risk to their own lives.

You value the Constitution of the United States by your own word. Ok. Maybe you didn't know of this Supreme Court rule as it affects the Constitution:

Compagnie Francaise de Navigation a Vapeur v. Louisiana Board of Health, 186 U.S. 380 (1902). The Supreme Court ruled 118 years ago that it is completely constitutional for states to order mandatory quarantines for diseases, and that said quarantines explicitly don't infringe on any individual civil rights or interstate commerce powers of the federal government.

In essence, it's well established case law in the United States that when it comes to diseases and pandemics, the rights of the rest of society to stay alive take precedence over your personal interpretation of the Bill of Rights. You will ignore Gov. Whitmer's orders and travel where and when you want, shop for what you want and go on with your life. What other laws will you break? Drive without insurance? Not file your taxes?

Alan D. Phillips
St. Joseph

Trump, liberate yourself

Editor,

The other day Donald Trump tweeted a short but curious message: "Liberate Michigan."

I wasn't aware we needed liberation. Presumably, he was calling for the removal of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, who he referred to recently as "that woman." Since she was voted into office in 2018, she won't be standing for re-election until 2022, so Trump is a bit early.

It's my opinion that liberation is in order for Donald Trump. I do not mean a violent overthrow, which Trump seemed to suggest for Whitmer. As a Buddhist, however, I understand that liberation is not only available for Trump, but necessary.

The Buddha reached enlightenment after solitary fasting and meditation, because of which he realized some fundamental truths from which all humanity, including Donald Trump, could benefit. First, and also most obvious, is that humankind is plagued by passions. I use the word to mean both positive and negative feelings that distort the ability to see straight and to think straight. People feel extreme loves, not merely for other people, but for money and property and public acclaim, and these passions can lead one to do and say things without thought. Likewise, people feel hatred of individuals based on race, religion or political affiliation. These passions also can lead to uncontrolled bad behavior.

Beginning to rid oneself of these passions – and we have to do it ourselves, nobody can do it for us – involves "sitting around and doing nothing." This is no joke; only each person alone can sit in stillness and face the truth of what they have done in life and why. In Alcoholics Anonymous this is the Fourth Step: a "fearless moral inventory." However, this is nothing to do with drunkenness; it is calmly but directly facing what you have done and why.

This is the beginning of a path to liberation.

Patrick Drazen
Berrien Springs

Trump tries to blame WHO for his own failures

Editor,

On April 14, Donald Trump announced that he was suspending funding for the World Health Organization (WHO), the major international group fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Not only will this destructive act compromise the WHO's ability to combat COVID-19 across the globe, it will also threaten many other of the organization's initiatives, including programs to eradicate polio, increase access to essential health and nutrition programs, reduce the prevalence of vaccine-preventable diseases and enhance the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis and HIV-AIDS.

Suspending funding for the World Health Organization is an attempt by Trump to distract attention from his repeated failures of leadership and to blame the WHO for his own negligence.

The World Health Organization declared an International Health Emergency on Jan. 30. Trump waited until March 13 to declare a National Health Emergency in the U.S. During the intervening six weeks, he repeatedly denied the seriousness of the COVID-19 outbreak and took very little action to prepare for the likelihood that this virus would soon invade our country.

The one action Trump did take, along with many other countries, was to partially restrict travel from China. He continually refers to this as a "travel ban," which it definitely was not. Exceptions were made for U.S. citizens permanent residents, and their families. Trade-related travel continued as before.

After instituting his partial travel restrictions, Trump did nothing to prepare the country for the impending epidemic in the U.S., despite repeated warnings from public health experts about the seriousness of the threat. He failed to lead and now he is looking for a scapegoat to blame. Trump's negligence has endangered our nation. His action against the WHO is endangering the world.

Thanking you and your staff for all that you are doing to keep Berrien County and our surrounding area informed.

Audrey Lester
St. Joseph

More mail voting will mean more fraud

Editor,

I read recently that there was a movement to vote by mail in the upcoming elections. If you believe there was mail fraud in past elections, you ain't seen nothing yet.

If this movement is successful, every cemetery in the United States will have a new voice.

James Shymkus
Watervliet

Trump hasn't led in coronavirus response

Editor,

You know Donald Trump is a liar. You know Donald Trump is a liar because you are not stupid. You are not stupid because you know no one, not even the president of the United States, can spend a dime of our tax money unless Congress says so. You know Donald Trump is lying when he says, "President Obama left the cupboard bare." You know Congress stocks that cupboard – not the president. You also know Republicans controlled the purse strings for the last six years of the Obama administration and it was Republicans who failed to stock that cupboard. You know this because you are not stupid.

There have been five worldwide pandemics in the last 20 years – H1N1, Ebola, SARS, MERS and the most recent Covid-19. Three have been coronaviruses causing respiratory illnesses. There was no doubt the U.S. would continue to be hit with pandemic after pandemic, we are not stupid, we've had five pandemics in 20 years. To prepare for this foreseeable danger the National Security Council formed a pandemic response team. Trump disbanded the pandemic response team in 2018 when John Bolton was Trump's national security adviser.

You know Donald Trump is a liar. You know Donald Trump is a liar because you are not stupid. You are not stupid because you remember those pandemics. You know Donald Trump is lying about his coronavirus response when he says "Who could have known?" You know Trump's lying because you know nearly everyone, from you, to Bill Gates (who warned us), to President Obama (who warned us), to me, remember those pandemics. You know Donald Trump is a liar because you are not stupid.

Both the United States and South Korea reported their first case of coronavirus on Jan. 20. As I write this South Korea has 10,694 cases and 238 deaths. During the same time period under the failed leadership of Donald Trump the U.S. has 820,600 cases and 45,967 deaths.

Trump arrogantly proclaimed himself a wartime president then failed to nationalize the response to the coronavirus attack. As the infection spiraled out of control Trump recognized strong inspired leadership is required in times of great peril and proclaimed, "I'm a back-up to the states." President Bone-spur's strategy of "every state for itself" resulted in a patchwork defense as effective as a peeing section in a swimming pool.

Trump supporters can celebrate his inspired leadership by reserving their very own commemorative MAGA body bag. Each body bag will be inscribed with the MAGA logo and have an inspirational quote such as: "I'm a back-up to the states." Or "Who could have known."

The emperor has no clothes. Trump can maintain his lies as long as people are shielded from the consequences of those lies. Trump supporters will eventually learn that arrogant stupidity is not leadership and neither God nor science can save them from their own willful ignorance. The clock is ticking.

Anthony Marsala
Benton Harbor

Everyone should have broadband access

Editor,

A number of inequalities have become more obvious in this time of COVID-19. The divide between rural and urban areas is well documented, but some issues are yet to be discussed in a fair and equitable manner. In the past century we came to realize that electricity and phone service are not just luxuries but needs. We take these services for granted now and it's almost impossible to imagine modern life without access to these vital services.

Twenty years into the 21st century, some people are now finally coming to terms with the necessity of reliable broadband internet access. Access to reliable broadband is crucial for modern students to learn in and out of the school building. Businesses require broadband access if they hope to compete in an growing and more network field of competition. Maybe most obvious lately is the need for video streaming and information sharing as it relates to health care and remote doctors visits. Reliable broadband in remote areas also offers the option to live where you want and still be able to pursue your life goals without undue burdens.

Consumer internet access has been offered by communications companies for over 20 years, yet through a combination of willful neglect from those service providers and bad information gathering from the Federal Communications Commission, as many as 168 million people still do not use the internet at broadband speeds. Now more than ever it is obvious that an internet connection to one another is more than a luxury but an essential part of American life.

Once we get through this difficult time, the new normal will depend more on distant communication rather than in personal visits and close spaces. For small local businesses to thrive they will need to change the way they interact with customers, and for customers to survive they will demand a safe way to interact with businesses. It's time that our elected and appointed officials look at broadband access as a public utility with an eye on fairness and equity for all of us, even rural Americans.

John Wagner
Paw Paw

Write us

Here's how to submit a letter to the editor:

Email: letters@TheHP.com

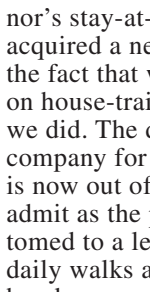
Regular mail: Editorial Page, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085

Time to reflect – and hope

'Does anybody know what time it is? Does anybody really care (care about time)? If so, I can't imagine why. We've all got time enough to cry."

Chicago's lyrics seem almost prophetic 50 years later. Days have gone by and now weeks and I have lost track of time. Lost track of what day it is. For instance, my former Sunday routine of coffee, reading the paper, and then getting ready for church has been disrupted. So, Sundays don't much seem like Sundays anymore. As the weather gets warmer, I am pretty sure that winter is now over and spring has arrived. But after the snowfall we had last week, does anybody really know what season it is?

Robert Burgess
Opinion Maker



A few weeks before the governor's stay-at-home order, my family acquired a new puppy. Other than the fact that we are still working on house-training her, I am glad we did. The dog has been welcome company for my grandson who is now out of school. And I must admit as the pup gets more accustomed to a leash, I have enjoyed daily walks around the neighborhood.

Yes, there are many things to be thankful for. Thankful that my church's food pantry is still able to serve families, albeit in a drive-thru version. Thankful that the Soup Kitchen in Benton Harbor is still in operation for daily lunches, albeit takeout sack lunches. In tough times as these, we all need be mindful of the less fortunate. Many of our neighbors have been furloughed or laid off. Many are probably wondering how they will pay the mortgage or the rent.

Others may be financially better off but may be struggling to keep their spirits up. Tempers or patience in some families may be running short as kids have been out of school for a month and parents may be doing their best to work from the home kitchen table. I am thankful for Zoom, FaceTime, and similar apps. I just wish that I did not have to use them so frequently.

Like the Serenity Prayer states, "grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change." There is not much I can do about the current COVID-19 crisis. However, I can to my best to follow Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's stay-at-home order. Although I must admit, I miss my regular visits this time of year to the local hardware store to pick up lawn and garden materials.

We all should be thankful for the employees at grocery or dollar stores and gas stations who are still coming to work every day. Thanks goes out also to all the employees who are still serving us takeout or drive-thru at restaurants. For years, the movies and television made fun of store clerks or fast food workers. I hope never again. There is a great deal of dignity in work. Now we know how essential they really are. May God bless every one of them while keeping them safe.

Having become my family's barber, I do have a much greater appreciation for my professional barber. There is a skill and art to someone who can give a good haircut. My uncle was a barber, but I don't have the talent. I just hope that when I am finally able to return to the barber shop my barber won't chastise me too much for the mess I have made of my own hair. She will certainly deserve an extra-large tip for cleaning me up.

Some of my friends are liberal, moderate or conservative. However, we are all Michiganders. Hopefully, our politicians in Lansing remember that too. There is no easy answer to our current predicament. But to me there is only one rule that politicians should be following now. And that is, work together to help solve this problem. Listen to the other side of the political aisle respectfully and cooperate as best you can to resolve what will soon be difficult political decisions on budget and priorities.

And for all, please, please remember the less fortunate among us. Be kind to each other and stay safe.

Like Chicago once sang, we all hope that in not too many weeks we will be able to enjoy a "Saturday in the park, … (maybe by) the Fourth of July (where we will find) people dancing, people laughing (and) a man selling ice cream."

Robert L. Burgess, a Michigan native, has lived in Lincoln Township since 1993. Email: robert_l_burgess@sbcglobal.net.

BIRTHS

Lakeland Medical Center – Niles

Dowagiac – Boy, 8 pounds, 6 ounces, Rayann and Matthew Shaer, 3:00 p.m. April 18.

Lakeland Medical Center – St. Joseph

Benton Harbor – Girl, 7 pounds, 6 ounces, Jabria Wilson and Jaden McCall, 3:06 a.m. April 19.

Stevensville – Boy, 5 pounds, 8 ounces, Hannah Scholtes and Kyle Banish, 11:47 a.m. April 11.

PRODUCE PRICES

The following fruit prices were recorded on the Chicago Terminal Market on Wednesday. Prices are not net to the growers as freight and selling fees have not been deducted. These prices were provided by the USDA Market News Branch office in Chicago.

APPLES: Cartons tray pack of Washington Extra Fancy 72s Red Delicious sold from mostly $26-27, Golden Delicious sold from $35-36, Fuji brought $29-30, Pink Lady brought $38-40, Gala sold from $34-36, and 72 size Honeycrisp sold for $36, with fine appearance offerings $52-54. Cartons of 12 3-pound film bags of Washington WA Extra Fancy 2 1/2-inch minimum Red Delicious sold from $23-24, while Golden Delicious brought $22-23, Gala sold from $23-25, while bushel cartons loose of Michigan 3 inch minimum Golden Delicious, Gala and Jonagold brought $20.

ASPARAGUS: Pyramid cartons/crates 11-pound bunched standard size from Mexico sold for $20-22, while large white bunched from Peru sold steady for $18-20. Organic standard size green offerings from Mexico sold from mostly $22-24.

BEANS: Bushel cartons/crates of round green type machine-picked offerings from Florida sold higher for $16-17, while hand-picked offerings brought $20-21.

BERRIES: Flats of 12 6-ounce cups with lids of medium-large berries from Florida and Georgia sold lower for $11.50, with fine appearance offerings from California $18. Organic offerings from California sold for $26, with fine appearance offerings higher for $32. Strawberries in flats of 12 1-pound containers medium size from California sold lower from $9-10, with fine appearance offerings $16, while organic offerings brought $21.

BROCCOLI: Cartons of 14 bunches organic offerings from Arizona/California sold for $19.50, with organic offerings $32.

CABBAGE: 50-pound cartons of round green medium from Texas sold from mostly $15-16, while red offerings sold for $21.50.

CAULIFLOWER: Cartons of 12 film wrapped heads from Arizona/California sold lower from mostly $18-19, with organic offerings higher for $48.

CORN: Wirebound crates of four dozen bi-color from Florida sold from mostly $15-16, with yellow $14-15.

CUCUMBERS: 1-1/9-bushel cartons from Mexico of medium size sold for $19, with selects $13 and large from $16-16.50, and carton 24s sold from mostly $8-10. Pickles of 200-300 size from Mexico sold steady for $28-30.

EGGPLANT: 1-1/9-bushel cartons of 24-count eggs from Mexico sold higher for $28.

LETTUCE: Cartons film wrapped 24 heads of iceberg lettuce from Arizona/California sold lower for $14.50-15, with organic offerings $30.50.

ORANGES: Cartons of 10 4-pound film bags of Florida 80 size Valencia juice oranges sold for $22-23.

PEPPERS: 1-1/9-bushel cartons of Florida green jumbos sold steady from $18-20, with medium size $14 and choppers $12. Medium size jalapeno peppers from Mexico sold for $22, while extra-large poblano sold for $22, serranos sold steady from $36-38, and medium Hungarian wax sold for $22.

SQUASH: 4/7-bushel cartons of small zucchini sold steady for $14 with medium zucchini from Mexico $13, while small size yellow straightneck sold for $8, with medium size $12. 1 1/9-bushel cartons from Mexico of large size acorn sold for mostly $21-23, while butternut small sold from $24-26, and spaghetti $24.

TOMATOES: 25-pound cartons loose mature greens 5x6s from Florida sold higher for $18-20, and cartons 2-layer offerings from Mexico of 4x5 size sold lower from $10-12. Flats 12 1-pint containers with lids of light red-red medium size grape tomatoes from Florida and Mexico sold lower from mostly $9-11. Cartons of 12 1-pint baskets of cherry type red from Florida and Mexico sold much lower for $12. Plum tomatoes packed in 25-pound cartons loose of extra-large size from Mexico sold higher from $26-28, wit large size $22-24.

Senior PGA volunteers donate $15K to Lakeland

By HP STAFF

BENTON HARBOR — The volunteer corps of the 2020 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship has donated more than $15,000 to the Spectrum Health Lakeland COVID-19 Response Fund.

The fund supports efforts to address several emerging needs during the coronavirus pandemic.

Rather than take a refund, more than 130 volunteers donated their uniform package fee to benefit the hospital system.

Spectrum Health Lakeland employs more than 4,000 professionals across three hospitals, an outpatient center, a cancer center and 48 physician practices.

The Senior PGA Championship, which was scheduled to be held May 19-24 at Harbor Shores Resort in Benton Harbor, was canceled on April 2 in the wake of the pandemic and resulting stay-at-home executive order.

"Like so many others in our community, we were saddened to hear of the 2020 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship's cancellation," Loren Hamel, president of Spectrum Health Lakeland, said in a news release. "However, the outpouring of support we've received from those who chose to donate their volunteer package fees toward Lakeland's COVID-19 Response Fund is truly inspirational. We are all in this together and these funds will support many emerging needs during this crisis."

Lakeland's COVID-19 Response Fund was established to support a number of unexpected health care needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funds will help provide personal protection equipment and other critical medical supplies and support clinical workers serving on the front lines.

"We are fortunate to have such wonderful volunteers who are willing to give back to their community," said Jeff Fettig, general chairman of the 2020 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship. "This donation will have a profound positive impact on the lives of our frontline clinical medical professionals in Southwest Michigan and their safety fighting the pandemic every day. We are proud of our volunteers and the community as a whole that has come together in this time of need."

OBITUARIES

Ron Sisson

Dec. 11, 1935 – April 22, 2020

Ron Sisson, 84, ended his battle with Parkinson's disease on Wednesday, April 22, 2020.

He was born on Dec. 11, 1935, to Darford and Mabel Van Lente Sisson. He grew up in St. Joseph, where he was very active in all sports and the National Honor Society. After SJHS graduation, he attended Hope College, where he played basketball. He then transferred to the University of Michigan and received an engineering degree in 1959. He also received an MBA from Michigan State University.

His death was preceded by his sister, Joyce Wilson.

He is survived by his wife, Karlyn Zick Sisson, with whom he recently celebrated his 59th wedding anniversary. He is also survived by his children, Scott (Amy) Sisson, Ronalyn Sisson, Karin Noel Sisson and Steve (Lauri) Sisson; brother, Dr. Gary (May) Sisson; grandchildren: Lindsey (Rob) Hicks, Hayley (Yamil) Pietri, Wyatt Sisson, Alex (Erin) Cochrane, Michael Calistri, Hannah Calistri, Will and Ben Sisson, Caroline Sisson, John MacDonald and Shari (Michael) Marchbanks; and great-grandchildren, Emery Hicks, James and Ellia Cochrane and Blair Marchbanks.

Ron was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Macatawa Bay Yacht Club, Bonita Bay Tennis and Marina Clubs, GR MI Peninsular Club, Singapore YC, U.S. Army National Guard, NSDJA, WDMA, DHI, AWI, U of M Alumni, MSU Alumni and SJRYC.

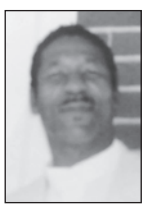
Ron was a true visionary and entrepreneur. He designed and built several sailboats during his lifetime. Ron was an example of the "Great American Dream." He was successful through his hard work, intelligence and dedication, and blessed in whatever he pursued. He used his engineering knowledge for 20 years at Clark Equipment in Benton Harbor, Buchanan and Jackson, Mich., where he designed many patents. He then went to work at Haworth as a vice president of manufacturing. From Haworth he became the president of Arrow Door Company. His dream was to own his own company and he then found a millwork company with 10 employees for sale in Grand Rapids. He purchased the assets and formed Karona Inc., which he named after his two daughters, Rona and Karin. Ron, his wife and three of their children worked at the company.

They traveled to Austria, Germany, England, Italy, France, Monte Carlo, Belgium, Netherlands and throughout the USA. In 2000, Ron incorporated a kitchen cabinet door company, Hanlin, named after Hannah, Lindsey and Hayley, three of his grandchildren. Karona Door was sold to Jeld Wen in 2015, due to Ron's failing health. Ron also started the MBJA sailing program at MBYC. He and his wife lived summers on Lake Macatawa and winters in Bonita Bay, Bonita Springs, Fla. Ron's main hobby was racing his sailboat, "Zoo," and eventually relaxing on his tiara 52 power boat, "Zookeeper." He participated in multiple Chicago Mac and Port Huron Mac races and also enjoyed playing tennis. He and his children were avid sailors, traveling to many regattas and winning many trophies, including the MORC International Championships twice.

A private family service with burial to follow will be held in Riverview Cemetery in St. Joseph on Saturday, April 25. Due to COVID-19, a Celebration of Life Service will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Michael J. Fox Parkinson's Foundation, U of M Cardiology c/o Dr. Kim Eagle, MBJA Sailing or St. Joseph Junior Foundation Sailing School. Arrangements have been entrusted to Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services. Those wishing to leave an online condolence may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Dave Harris

June 1, 1955 – April 18, 2020



Dave Harris, 64 years young, of Battle Creek, Mich., formerly of Benton Harbor passed away and transitioned peacefully to be with the Lord on April 18, 2020.

Death notices

Dave Harris, 64, of Battle Creek, Mich., formerly of Benton Harbor died April 18, 2020. Sherwood Funeral Home, Grass Lake, Mich., (517) 522-3000.

Juanita Lietz Heckert, 92, of Lawton died April 17, 2020, in Paw Paw. Betzler & Thompson Life Story Funeral Home, Paw Paw, 657-3870.

Richard Scott Nelson, 55, of Baroda died April 22, 2020, at home. Pike Funeral Home, Boyd Chapel, Bridgman, 465-3239.

Arline M. Poschke, 93, of Stevensville died April 22, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Ronald Sisson, 84, of Holland, Mich., died April 22, 2020, at Rest Haven Care Center, Holland. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Robert Vosburgh, 96, of Dowagiac died April 23, 2020. Brown Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Bobby G. Barton

April 30, 1936 – April 15, 2020

Bobby Gene Barton, 83, entered the presence of his Savior, April 15, 2020.

Private family services were held at Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home in Coloma. Burial has taken place in Coloma Cemetery. Those wishing to leave a message or share a memory with the family online may do so at www.duffieldpastrick.com.

Bob was born April 30, 1936, in Rives, Mo., to Walter and Lona Barton. He spent most of his life in the Benton Harbor area and was a member of the Benton Harbor High School graduating class of 1955. Bob served in the U.S. Army from 1959 to 1965, and completed a tour in Germany with the rank of sergeant.

He retired from the Cleveland, Ohio, division of Volvo, (formerly Clark Equipment Co.) in 1991 after more than 27 years of service. He was a member of the NRA and liked to watch pro-football and NASCAR racing on TV.

Bob is survived by sister, Betty (Buck) Moore of Riverside; sister-in-law, Debera (Edmund) Barton of Watervliet; brother, CL (Carol) Collins of Coloma; and many nieces, great-nieces, great-great-nieces, nephews, great-nephews and great-great-nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Lona Barton; five brothers: Jerry and Edmund Barton and Alva, JR, and Carl Collins; and one sister, Ruby Kiser (Collins).

Richard Scott Nelson

July 30, 1964 – April 22, 2020

Richard Scott Nelson, 55, of Baroda passed away on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, at his home.

A private family gathering was held and a celebration of life will be held later this summer. Online condolences accepted at www.PikeFH.com.

Scott was born July 30, 1964, in St. Joseph, the son of Richard "Dick" Lee and Diane (Haase) Nelson. Scott married Elizabeth Ann DeFreez on Aug. 27, 2008. He loved reading and working on motorcycles, but most of all, watching Vaughn grow up.

Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth; son, Vaughn Scott Nelson; siblings, Susan (Hans) Van den Heuvel and Steve Nelson; his mother, Diane Keltner; and four nieces and nephews, Justin (Cortney) McNitt, Ashley Rabbers, Lance (Bree) Nelson and Lucas Nelson.

Scott was also preceded in death by his father, Dick Nelson; sister, Cindy Nelson; and stepfather, Jim Keltner.

Arrangements are entrusted to Pike Funeral Home, Boyd Chapel, 9191 Red Arrow Hwy., Bridgman, 465-3239.

Self-employed keep waiting for jobless aid

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Like many Americans cooped up during the virus outbreak, Jeff Kardesch of Austin, Texas, is spending a lot of time on social media. It isn't just idle talk with friends. Kardesch is struggling to find out when he'll receive the unemployment benefits he needs.

His business as a self-employed film and commercial producer evaporated once Austin canceled the annual South by Southwest festival in early March. Since then, no other work has replaced it.

Yet because Kardesch is self-employed, it's a headache for him to obtain unemployment aid – or even figure out when he will. A new federal relief package made freelancers like him eligible for unemployment benefits for the first time. But Texas, like most states, has had to establish a new system to process these new claims and distribute the money.

Kardesch, 23, applied in late March. He was quickly turned down. He has since reapplied. No luck.

"It's really frustrating," Kardesch said. "Nothing so far has really worked. The most I can do is just apply, get rejected and stay in the system."

The number of Americans who have filed jobless claims is already stunning: More than 4.4 million last week and 26 million in the five weeks since the coronavirus shut down much of the nation's economy. It's easily the worst stretch of job losses in U.S. history. Economists say the layoffs could send the unemployment rate as high as 20 percent, which would be the worst level since the Great Depression.

But there are many more filings for jobless aid to come, including millions of independent contractors, gig workers and the self-employed. Most states have not begun approving applications from these pools of newly eligible people.

The Labor Department estimates that 10.6 million Americans work as contractors, which means their jobs tend to exist for a limited period, and they receive few, if any, benefits. An additional 16 million are self-employed. And perhaps 1.5 million are gig workers – Uber drivers, TaskRabbit workers and the like – though most of these people do such work as a second job.

If even a quarter of them file for jobless aid, it would add up to many more new claims for unemployment, though it's hard to say how many. Kardesch and others who have already applied and been turned down wouldn't count as a new claim once Texas starts approving such applications.

The delay stems from the fact that states already have records for traditional workers that receive W-2 forms and whose employers pay unemployment taxes. But the process is more complicated for contractors and other independent workers who typically receive 1099s. State agencies need additional documentation, which their systems aren't set up to handle.

In Michigan, 17 percent of the state's workforce is now receiving unemployment aid, the largest proportion in the country.

It is followed by Rhode Island at 15 percent, Nevada at 13.7 percent and Georgia at 13.6 percent.

The number of people who are receiving unemployment benefits has reached a record 16 million, surpassing a previous high of 12 million set in 2010, just after the 2008-2009 recession ended. This figure reflects people who have managed to navigate the application systems in their states, have been approved for benefits and are actually receiving checks.

In the meantime, the self-employed keep waiting.

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DO YOU REMEMBER?

25 years ago – 1995

The Berrien Artist Guild intends to buy part of the old Williams Box Co. in St. Joseph after being awarded a $50,000 state grant to develop an art center. The Michigan Council for the Arts told Guild President Bob Williams that this is exactly the kind of project they like to fund.

35 years ago – 1985

A suggestion for a second fire station for the jointly-operated Coloma City-Township Fire Dept. by Township Supervisor Rodney Krieger Jr. was taken under study last night by the Coloma Joint Fire Board. The city and township have been unable to agree on a site for the proposed new station. The city supports a location in the city, while the township has voted for a site in the township. Krieger said the large number of fire losses in the township bothers him compared to the lesser number of losses in the city.

50 years ago – 1970

Riverwood Mental Health Center, a $1,800,000 monument to area residents' concern for comprehensive treatment of mental health illness, will have an open house Sunday. The new facility, adjoining Memorial Hospital in St. Joseph, will be open from 1-5 p.m. and members of the Women's Service League will conduct tours.

Hospital officials said, "Anyone who needs psychiatric help may apply to the center for assistance."

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Friday, April 24, the 115th day of 2020. There are 251 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On April 24, 1877, federal troops were ordered out of New Orleans, ending the North's post-Civil War rule in the South.

On this date:

In 1800, Congress approved a bill establishing the Library of Congress.

In 1913, the 792-foot Woolworth Building, at that time the tallest skyscraper in the world, officially opened in Manhattan as President Woodrow Wilson pressed a button at the White House to signal the lighting of the towering structure.

In 1915, in what's considered the start of the Armenian genocide, the Ottoman Empire began rounding up Armenian political and cultural leaders in Constantinople.

In 1961, in the wake of the failed Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba, the White House issued a statement saying that President John F. Kennedy "bears sole responsibility for the events of the past few days."

In 1967, Soviet cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov was killed when his Soyuz 1 spacecraft smashed into the Earth after his parachutes failed to deploy properly during re-entry; he was the first human spaceflight fatality.

In 1980, the United States launched an unsuccessful attempt to free the American hostages in Iran, a mission that resulted in the deaths of eight U.S. servicemen.

In 1986, Wallis, Duchess of Windsor, for whom King Edward VIII had given up the British throne, died in Paris at age 89.

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Mostly Cloudy	Scattered Rain	Scattered Rain	Chance Rain	Partly Cloudy	Scattered Rain
53°	45°	46° / 40°	44° / 37°	52° / 42°	55° / 47°

Local Outlook

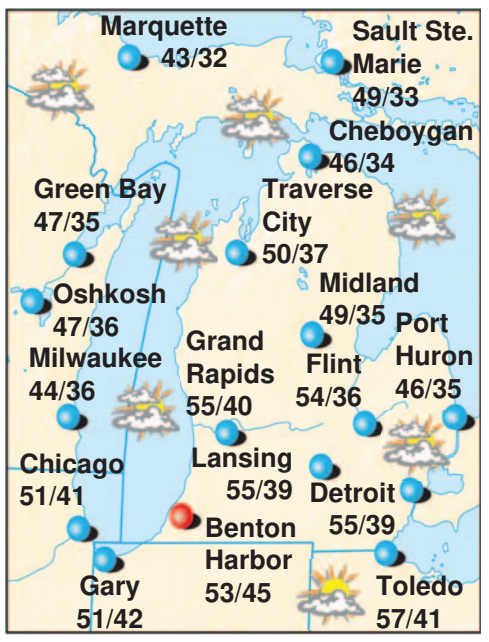
Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 53°, humidity of 62%. East northeast wind 7 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with a 40% chance of scattered rain, overnight low of 45°. Northeast wind 7 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise ..... 6:50 a.m.
Sunset ..... 8:37 p.m.
Moonrise ..... 7:54 a.m.
Moonset ..... 10:17 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
4/30	5/7	5/14	5/22

Regional Map



Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Yesterday

Temperature

High	59°
Low	46°
Normal High	63°
Normal Low	41°
Record High	78° in 2008
Record Low	29° in 2015

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	1.83"
Normal for month	2.55"
Year to date	8.72"
Normal Year to date	8.20"

Air Quality

Yesterday 38
Main Offender ..... Particles

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

0-50 ..... Good
51-100 ..... Moderate
101-150 .... Sensitive
151-200 .. Unhealthy

Weather Trivia

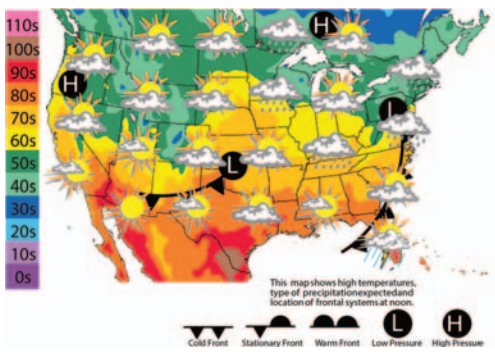
What is brontophobia?

?

Answer: It is the fear of thunder.

National Weather Map

Forecast map for April 24, 2020



For latest weather updates: **www.UpdatedWx.com/HP**

Lake Michigan

Today, NE wind around 6 kt. Partly sunny. Waves around 1 ft. Water temperature 43 degrees. Tonight, NNE wind 7 to 11 kt. A chance of rain. Waves around 2 ft.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with highs in the 40s and 50s. East northeast wind 9 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies Saturday with highs in the 40s. Northeast wind 3 to 8 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with highs in the 40s and 50s. East northeast wind 7 mph. Expect cloudy skies Saturday with widespread rain, highs in the 40s and 50s. Northeast wind 7 to 11 mph.

Trump's crisis handling has spiked number of undecideds in 2020

By GREGORY KORTE
Bloomberg News (TNS)

President Donald Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic and the economic collapse has shaken voters' confidence in him, with the percentage of undecided voters more than doubling in the last two weeks.

Former Vice President Joe Biden, the presumptive Democratic nominee, is also seeing voters take a second look at their support. With his campaign limited to a few livestream events a week, he hasn't been able to capitalize on Trump's newfound weakness.

Three weeks ago, only 5 percent of voters overall were undecided in the 2020 race.

That number has jumped to 12 percent and in one Fox News poll, 16 percent as voters appear to find both candidates wanting during a national emergency.

The spike in undecideds is the latest element of an election year knocked off balance by the twin crises. Pollsters caution that it's too early to draw conclusions, given the seven months still to go before the November election and deep uncertainty about where the country will be in terms of the pandemic and the economy.

Both candidates are making their case, but it's not clear voters are listening.

Trump says he saved the economy once and that he can do it again, even as his poll numbers sag. Biden implores voters to remember his work helping to guide the economy out of the last recession as Barack Obama's vice president in 2009, but he has no platform to display his skills from his basement in Delaware.

The number of people who said they're "extremely interested" in the presidential election dropped from 55 percent to 48 percent.

Trump has clearly seen his approval rating sinking and is spending more time revving up his base supporters, tweeting attacks on Democratic governors; issuing orders halting immigration and disdaining global institutions – all hallmarks of his 2016 campaign.

"It appears President Trump's approval of the pandemic is fading and Joe Biden has been marginalized without any air time or significant policy to advocate for," said Emerson University pollster Spencer Kimball. "Voters are under a lot of stress and at the moment might claim to be undecided."

Polls in the RealClearPolitics average showed just 5 percent of respondents answering "don't know," "someone else" or declining to answer. Last week, that number peaked to 12 percent.

In January, the IBD/TIPP poll had just 3 percent picking neither Trump nor Biden when asked to choose between the two. That went to 5 percent in February and 12 percent on April 6.

Similar responses in the Fox News poll have risen from 9 percent to 16 percent over the same period.

For Trump, the increase in undecided voters could represent an even greater peril, given the conventional wisdom that undecided voters tend to break for the challenger, even though that doesn't happen in every election. The brief "rally around the flag" effect that the president enjoyed early in the coronavirus crisis has abated.

LETTER

From page A1

30, even though it's the fifth Thursday of the month because the county needs to be nimble as it responds to the COVID-19 pandemic.

One item that is ready in case it is needed is a draft resolution extending the county's declaration of an emergency, he said.

Berrien County Health Officer Nicki Britten told county commissioners last week that she, along with many of the county health officers, support a regionalized approach, depending on what that looks like and how the regions are defined.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

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